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THE NATION'S NEWSPAPER

50 CENTS

Wednesday, September 12, 2001

Special Edition

37 pages on America's day of terror

'Tears most of the day'

Coast to coast, Americans turn to each other. 8A

USA TODAY

NO. 1 IN THE USA

Carnage in New York

Horror, disbelief and thousands of victims. 6A

Pentagon in flames

As many as 800 believed dead at military HQ. 7A

'Act of war'

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86% say attacks are acts of war

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Second impact: Flames and debris explode from a World Trade Center tower as a jetliner slams into the structure Tuesday. Both towers in Manhattan collapsed into a pile of rubble shortly thereafter.

By Chao Soi Cheong, AP

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Minute by minute, fear envelops the country

As jetliners strike U.S. landmarks, America's sense of security is shattered

It may have been the bloodiest day in U.S. history, when our two biggest office towers were obliterated and the Pentagon, symbol of our military authority, was ripped open like an egg carton.

Our commercial jetliners were turned into weapons of mass murder, and we had to stop doing things we always do, from trading stocks to going to Disney World.

People ran through the ash-covered streets of Lower Manhattan like extras in a nuclear winter fantasy, chased by a mighty cloud of dust and debris from the office towers they once occupied. Others, some on fire, jumped from 30, 40, 80 stories. One couple held hands as they leapt.

Even if Sept. 11, 2001, was not our deadliest day, it was surely our worst. Americans talked of "a second Pearl Harbor" and "an act of war," but the comparisons faltered.

This time it was civilians dying in the nation's political and financial centers, not soldiers and sailors in a distant Pacific territory. This time the targets were not outdated battleships, but buildings familiar to every schoolchild.

Cover story

By Rick Hampson
USA TODAY

And if this really was war — 86% of Americans in a USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll on Tuesday said it was — who was the enemy? What did he want? When was the next battle?

Suspicion focused on an individual, indicted Saudi terrorist Osama bin Laden, not a nation.

As some called for a congressional declaration of war, Rep. Jim Moran, D-Va., asked, "Who do you declare war on?"

History will find that something about America changed at 9 a.m. Tuesday, predicted John Morton Blum, a retired Yale historian and World War II scholar.

"Americans aren't used to being in a war zone," he said. "From here on, they are. No superpower has ever been hit like this."

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., struck an apocalyptic note: "I don't think our lifestyles will be the same for a long time."

The prime casualty was America's sense of safety. When Arab terrorists bombed the World Trade Center 8 years ago, six people died, and the complex came back better than ever.

But by noon Tuesday, the Trade Center looked like a smoldering dump and America looked like a nation in retreat — office workers ran up Broadway, and men and women in uniform walked from the Pentagon past Arlington National Cemetery and the Iwo Jima memorial. They glanced fearfully behind them, as though afraid of what would

"Pearl Harbor brought us together to face a problem. Maybe this can do the same."

—Former secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger

See COVER STORY next page ▸

Under attack

Reactions

Day dawns ordinary, ends with a changed world

It can't be happening, but it is. Both towers are in flames. It looks like a 1970s disaster movie. The country is under attack. I want to cry.

By Erik Brady
USA TODAY

ARLINGTON, Va. — Days that live in infamy are supposed to be found in dusty history books. Tuesday changed all that. It changed everything. Our world will never be the same.

Terrorists in hijacked planes struck at the heart of American commerce and government, crumbling mighty buildings that were symbols as much as mortar. A sense of security Americans carry with them like a birthright went up in smoke, too.

The shocking pictures played out on TV, a soundtrack of our worst fears, and parents around the country wrestled with how to tell the children.

I told mine to watch TV. They are older kids, 16 and 13, and they needed to know about this day — to share viscerally in the national blend of fear and outrage and mourning. Because someday they will tell their children what it was like the day the horrors of war were first visited on modern mainland America.

My generation remembers where it was when Kennedy was shot. My children's generation will remember this. Ours was a loss of innocence. Theirs is all of that and more, something like a loss of ease, of feeling safe in your own bed.

Every family across the land has a story to tell about a day of unfolding horrors. This one is mine.

The day dawns like any other. Feed the dog, wake the kids, make the bagels. The top story on *Today* at 7 a.m. ET is Michael Jordan's newest incremental step toward a comeback. A complacent country shuffles off to school and to work.

By 8, I am at my desk, rapping out a story on Texas high school football. Nearing 9 a.m., smoke billowing from one of the towers at the World Trade Center interrupts the usual morning broadcast fare. Reports are that an airplane has crashed into it.

I call my mother in Buffalo. She reminds me that in 1945 an airplane hit the Empire State Building. One of the dead was a family friend. But that was an accident. Soon it becomes clear this is something else: I watch in slowly dawning terror as television shows an orange ball of flame bursting from the second tower.

Taped footage confirms the unthinkable: A plane has hurtled into the belly of the building. It can't be happening, but it is. Both towers are in flames. It looks like a 1970s disaster movie. The country is under attack. I want to cry.

But there is no time. The next news strikes close to home: Another plane has struck, this one at the Pentagon, just down the road from USA TODAY headquarters in Arlington. We work in twin towers of our own here — on Reagan National Airport's flight path. I tell my wife, Carol Stevens, deputy editor of the editorial page, that we should take laptops and go home. She refuses. She has much work to do in the office on the most terrible news day of our careers. She wants me to work from home; she says we should not both be in the building.

I go outside and see gridlock. Office workers on cellphones frantically make calls. I get in the car and wind my way home. The radio offers more horror. One of the Trade Center towers has collapsed. The other goes next. Rescue workers and ambulances are rushing to the Pentagon. Sirens fill the air. It feels like the end of the world.

My plan is to work from home on my laptop. But word soon comes from the office: I need to come back to write this story.

First I need to get my kids out of school. They are safe there, but I want them at home before I go back to work. I go to my daughter's middle school and wait in line with other parents signing out their children early. There is a space on the form to list a reason for early release. The first parent has penciled in "disaster." All the rest use ditto marks.

Minutes later my daughter is escorted down the hall.

"What did your teachers tell you?" I ask.

"Nothing," she answers. "They said they didn't want to give us any wrong information."

She knows most of it anyway; one child who had been signed out early came back to school and told all. The children appear oddly serene, given that the Pentagon, where some of their neighbors work, is in flames.

I want to reassure her that everything is going to be OK, though I don't know that to be true. I tell her anyway.

We go to my son's high school. The atmosphere among students here is odder still — a nervous excitement approaching giddiness. I wait in another line of parents to sign him out. At first he is not to be found. Finally he appears in the chaotic halls. I take the kids home.

There I turn on the TV and ask my daughter when I last wanted her to watch it. "Never," she says.

Watch it today, I tell the kids. Watch this terrible history and remember it. Ask questions. Call your friends on the phone. But stay home and stay safe.

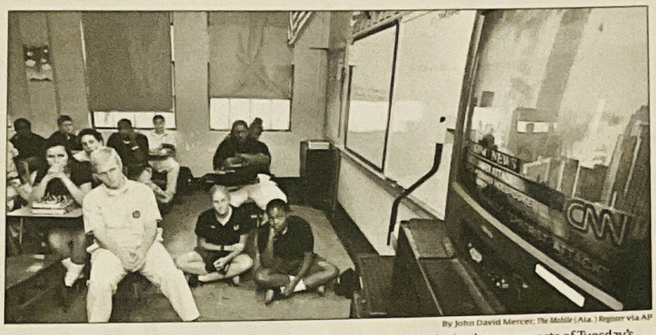
I put a bicycle in the station wagon and drive back toward work. On Lee Highway, a main road through Arlington, police have set up roadblocks. Cars cannot drive toward Washington. The city is emptying; no more can come in.

I park the car and get on the bike. And as I travel down Lee Highway, dozens of cars head west while I ride east alone, three lanes to myself, one more surreal image in a day of them.

For the rest of this somber day images of horror play across office TV screens. The national air transportation system is stilled. The Trade Center towers are in rubble. The Pentagon has a gaping hole. Thousands are dead. It is a national nightmare. And it is real.

We will learn much in the days and weeks ahead. But this much we have already learned: The world as we knew it changed forever Tuesday morning. Pearl Harbor is no longer just a love story at the multiplex. It has come to a neighborhood near you.

I call my mother in Buffalo. She reminds me that in 1945 an airplane hit the Empire State Building. But that was an accident. Soon it becomes clear this is something else.



By John David Mercer, *The Mobile (Ala.) Register* via AP

Somber viewing: Seniors at Murphy High School in Mobile, Ala., watch televised news reports of Tuesday's terrorist attacks in New York and the Washington, D.C., area.

Essay

For those old enough to remember, it was reminiscent of Pearl Harbor

Continued from 1A

happen next.

"Things are never going to be the same in this country again," said lawyer Alan Krauss, 48, watching the ruins of the Trade Center from a bluff in New Jersey. "This is the worst day in the history of our country, with the exception of the Civil War."

Some feared his qualifier would prove unnecessary.

Until Tuesday, the bloodiest day in U.S. history was Sept. 17, 1862, *when about 4,700 Union and Confederate soldiers died in the Civil War battle of Antietam. Pearl Harbor killed 2,388 Americans, and the first day of the Normandy invasion on June 6, 1944, killed 1,465.*

All the major terrorist attacks on U.S. targets since 1980 have killed fewer than 1,000 Americans.

Officials refused to speculate about the death toll in Tuesday's attacks and declined to comment on estimates that 10,000 people might have perished. But about 50,000 people work at the Trade Center, and tens of thousands more visit each day.

With 266 dead in four jet crashes alone, Tuesday's death toll seemed poised to surpass Antietam. An unidentified foe had done what Hitler and Tojo couldn't.

In lockdown

The attacks left America a nation in lockdown. All civilian flights were grounded until at least noon today, and jet fighters patrolled skies above New York and Washington. The Navy dispatched an aircraft carrier to New York Harbor.

Cancelled: major league baseball, PTA, book group, soccer practice, even prayer itself. A noonday service at stately Trinity Episcopal Church in Boston's Copley Square had to be called off because of fears that the neighboring Hancock Center might be a target.

In Detroit, General Motors and Ford sent workers home, and in Atlanta, Coca-Cola did the same. Los Angeles International Airport was evacuated. At one point, about 30,000 passengers were stranded at Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport. Lines at some rental car counters stretched more than 100 yards, and dozens of people clustered around pay telephones.

Office towers closed, including the Sears Tower in Chicago, the nation's tallest building but not as capacious as either Trade Center tower.

Landmarks shut down, including the nation's biggest mall (the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn.) and the biggest theme park (Disney World). The Liberty Bell, the St. Louis Gateway Arch, the Hoover Dam visitors' center — all closed.

At Antoine's, the 161-year-old restaurant in New Orleans' French Quarter, waiters stood by empty tables at lunchtime. "We're open, but there's no business," manager Paul Greco said. Outside Antoine's, cab driver Christus Fernando, an immigrant from Sri Lanka, sat waiting for a fare. "The same thing is happening in my country," he said. "This kind of thing is not new. That's why I am here."

Until Tuesday, the great national tragedies had been essentially local, confined in their action to Ford's Theater or Oahu or Oklahoma City. But with four different hijacked airliners crashing, fear spread across the land.

The West Virginia Capitol was evacuated. "If somebody in West Virginia can be afraid to get up in the morning, I think they feel like they've accomplished something," Russell Kitchen, a legislative staffer in Charleston, said of the attacks' planners.

El Paso City Hall closed, and Denver set up an emergency preparedness center in the basement of City Hall. Even in Idaho, freelance writer Julie Fanselow said, "there was a moment of fear when we heard an airplane outside, just after hearing the FAA had grounded all flights."

Ryan Badiak of Green Township, N.J., was in Denver on business. He often took his son, now 16, to the towers. "All those photos I have from up there at the observation deck," he mused. "I guess they're collectors' items now."

'Beginning of something big'

The implications of the bombings were as fearsome as the immediate destruction.

Gabriel Hannaford, 31, who teaches high school drama in San Francisco, talked about his reaction while waiting for a van after the Golden Gate Bridge was closed to pedestrians and cyclists.

"I'm not sure this is so surprising, shocking as it is," he said. "You almost get the sense that there's a global climate building, that … that this might be the beginning of something big. … You always think that we're so insulated from danger in this country, (but) we have so many targets here. Look at the bridges and public works in this country. You can point to any state and find a great target."

Elgen Long, 74, of Reno, Nev., a retired airline pilot and World War II veteran, worried that something like paranoia would grip the nation. "You're going to have security way beyond anything you have now. … I'm afraid, at least for the time being, it is going to be the end of the world, at least as I've known it all of my life. … Our freedoms and what-not are going to be sorely restricted. I'm afraid we will probably overreact."

Gahzi Khankan, a Muslim leader in New York, recalled the attacks against his fellow Muslims after the bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building in 1995 but before it became clear it was the work of a homegrown terrorist, ex-GI Timothy McVeigh. The Council on American-Islamic Relations says more than 200 Arab- and Muslim-Americans were victimized then. "Please do not start speculating and pointing the finger at us," Khankan said.

Anna Gruba, 21, of Estonia, visiting on a work and travel program, saw snipers dressed in black on the roof of the White House and concluded that "Now, in America, it's like Russia. No stability."

But heroism graced the catastrophe. In New York, people literally took the shirts off their backs and bandaged the injured. Retired cops reported for duty. An office building doorman intercepted a reporter heading toward the Trade Center and told him to turn back, minutes before one of the towers collapsed, burying the street and possibly himself.

A fireman threw a newswoman against a wall and shielded her from the blast of one tower's collapse. Another insisted, "I gotta get back there!" as he was taken from an ambulance at a hospital and put into a wheelchair.

Americans — especially those who knew people in greater Washington and New York — called each other to ask whether they were OK, no matter that the odds of someone in New York or Washington being hurt were very small.

Cindy McCoy of Crossville, Tenn., got a call in Kennebunkport, Me., where she was on vacation: "My daughter said, 'Come back to the Midwest. Get home. Get off the East Coast.' "

For some of those old enough to recall Pearl Harbor, there was again the juxtaposition of the banal and the beastly. Clarence Frank, 80, of Columbus, Ohio, was at a stag party on Dec. 7, 1941, when he heard the news on a radio. Tuesday, he was watching Regis Philbin's show and had briefly turned from the set. "When I turned back," he said, "there were pictures of the Trade Center burning."

In one sense, memories of Pearl Harbor offered hope. "Pearl Harbor brought us together to face a problem," said former secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger. "Maybe this can do the same."

It also raised questions about how safe America can ever be. "This certainly puts egg on the face of those people who think a missile-defense system is going to solve our problem," said Blum, the Yale historian.

"Now, you hope for leadership," he added. "You hope for the inspired rhetoric that FDR provided. But that's a lot to ask."

"We have nothing to fear," Roosevelt once said, "but fear itself."

As the Pentagon and the World Trade Center smoked, as the body count began, and as Americans wondered how much could have gone wrong so fast, fear itself was bad enough.

Contributing: Jill Lawrence, Larry Copeland, Leslie Spalding, John Ritter, Cathy Lynn Grossman, Nanci Heimlich, Patrick O'Driscoll, Jim Cox, Don Collins

By Fabien Moreau for USA TODAY

Incoming: One tower burns as another jet, bottom left, zeroes in on second tower.

By Fabien Moreau for USA TODAY

Second impact: At 9:03 a.m., United Airlines Flight 175 strikes the south tower.

By Jerry Torrens, AP

First collapse: At 9:50 a.m., the south tower falls, showering debris across Manhattan.

By Todd Plitt, USA TODAY

Second collapse: At 10:29 a.m., the north tower tumbles into a mound of rubble.

Cover story

Americans see attacks as an act of war against United States, poll finds

By Mark Memmott
USA TODAY

Americans who woke up Tuesday in peace went to bed at night convinced their nation is at war.

A USA TODAY/Gallup/CNN Poll taken Tuesday afternoon and evening showed:

- Eighty-six percent of those surveyed described the terrorist attacks as acts of war against the United States.
- Even more, 87%, described what happened as the "most tragic news event" in their lives.
- Almost half, 48%, said they'll be less willing to fly in the future. Even so, 50% said the attacks would have no affect on their flying plans.
- The number worried that they or someone in their families would become a victim of a terrorist attack, 58%, was the highest since just after the April 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. Then, 42% were so concerned.

Fears and worries were common.

"I don't fear for my safety," said Julie Appel of Atlanta. "But I fear for the safety of my children (3-year-old Brenner, 1-year-old Max). What will happen to their world because of this?"

"I'm very scared," said Kevin McCaskey, 47, of Lancaster, Pa., who was stuck at Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport on the way from Baltimore to Nashville. "I wish I didn't have to fly anymore, but I don't think my job would allow that."

"This is war. This is no joke here," said Rachel Osensky of Powder Springs, Ga. "People who are brainwashed can go a long way. You can't ignore them."

President Bush received strong support Tuesday. More than three-quarters of those polled, 78%, said they are confident he can handle the situation. But, "this is really going to test his mettle," said John Carrier of Seattle.

Most people urged the president to wait before using the military to take any action. Only 21% said the United States should conduct immediate strikes. Seventy-one percent said to wait until those responsible can be identified.

As for whether the United States will be able to find those behind the attacks, 52% said it's "very likely" that will happen. About a third said it's "somewhat likely." Though they viewed the attacks Tuesday as the most tragic news in their lives, most Americans said they won't make major changes in the way they live. About two-thirds said they won't alter how they live to make themselves less vulnerable to terror.

Adam and Carolyn Kaplan were married Saturday in Niantic, Conn., and were trying to get to Aruba for their honeymoon. Instead, they were going to spend Tuesday night in Atlanta. "It's hard to be concerned with ourselves when you've got all that stuff going on up north," Adam Kaplan said. They said that the attacks had not made them hesitant about flying. "You can't go through your life living in fear," Carolyn Kaplan said.

Even so, nearly 4 in 10 said they will make some changes — about twice the number that said that after the Oklahoma City bombings.

Some said the events have both scared them and given them a firm sense of resolve. "I feel like I've lost my sense of security," said Adam Nilay, 20, a college student and bank teller in Moorpark, Calif. But, "this makes me feel like if I did have to serve in the military there would be a good reason. It wouldn't be some faraway, vague cause. It would be right here."

Contributing: Dennis Cauchon in Charlottesville, Va.; Kathy Kiely in Washington; Jill Lieber in Atlanta; David Leon Moore in Los Angeles; Patrick O'Driscoll in Denver

Poll results

Would you describe today's attacks as an act of war?

Yes	86%
No	10%

Do today's events make you less willing to fly on airplanes?

Yes	48%
No	50%

Source: USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll of 619 adults conducted Tuesday. Margin of error: +/-4 percentage points.

Newsline

News Money Sports Life

How a tragic day unfolded

A hijacked American Airlines Flight 11 crashes into World Trade Center tower in New York City at 8:45 a.m., beginning a chain of catastrophic events. Many U.S. residents are busy running errands, working, playing golf, washing cars. A café in Washington puts a TV set on the sidewalk. People stop. States of emergency are declared. By the end of the day, it is hard not to know. At 9 p.m. President Bush addresses the nation. Chronology, 10A.

President pledges to defend freedom

President Bush is taken by Air Force One from Florida to Louisiana to Nebraska during the day and then by helicopter to the White House just before sunset. He tells the nation, and the world, in a brief speech on TV Tuesday night: "Our country is strong." 16A.

Lives shattered amid symbolism

Normally tough New Yorkers are staggered. Pentagon's tough exterior is cracked. Thousands are feared dead, many are injured or missing. "We are being hijacked!" says a cellphone caller on board United Airlines Flight 93. The scenes in New York, Washington and Shanksville, Pa. 4, 6, 7A.

Early signs point to terrorist bin Laden

U.S. officials have information indicating exiled Osama bin Laden as mastermind of the day's terrorist acts; intercepted communications could implicate bin Laden's supporters. 5A.

'What if America disappeared'

Views from the around the world become clear. Germany's leader calls attacks "a declaration of war against the civilized world." Celebrations erupt in the Middle East. A Baltimore woman living in Beijing laments, "What if America disappeared like the World Trade Center just did?" 13A.

By Robert Deutsch, USA TODAY

Triage: In New York's Foley Square Tuesday, blood donors, qualified CPR volunteers are identified.

Blood supply called adequate

Volunteers line up at blood banks to help out the injured. Although immediate demand for blood can be met, distribution of it can be troublesome. And, crowds of would-be donors overwhelm many blood centers, forcing them to turn hundreds away. Still, the USA's need for blood will remain high. 10D.

Security in U.S. skies questioned

Air travel is suspended in the USA for the first time in nation's history. Thousands are stranded; many would-be-fliers are prepared to drive thousands of miles just to get home. 6B.

Viewers watch horror unfold on TV

Television coverage rises to seemingly incredible challenge, dropping competitive tendencies and pooling resources to deliver the news. 1D.

By Richard Cohen, Reuters

Evacuating: People leave Wall Street in financial district Tuesday amid clouds of debris.

Stock markets close, economy jeopardized

Wall Street, just a short way from the fallen twin towers in lower Manhattan, is shut down. U.S. markets remain closed today. Automakers close operations. "This may be the thing that does the economy in," says one economist. Others wonder if the first global recession since 1974 is looming. 1, 5B.

Money: Gas prices rise, lines grow

Lines get long at gas stations in several states, prices at the pump spike in Midwest and South. One station temporarily charges $5 per gallon. 2B.

Sports: Baseball games canceled

The home run race is put on hold. Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa, their teams, their competitors, the fans temporarily benched. Other sports postpone or evaluate schedules. 1C.

▸ Security plan for upcoming Salt Lake City Winter Olympics will be "completely reevaluated," despite recent meeting in Washington to review existing plan and work on organizing committee's request for a final $12.7 million. More meetings are expected. 1C.

Life: Lessons hard to learn

Broadway, the fabled entertainment boulevard filled with stages, goes dark. Disney World, a fantasyland close to many children's hearts, is closed. Meanwhile, young students and their parents and teachers struggle for explanations. 9D.

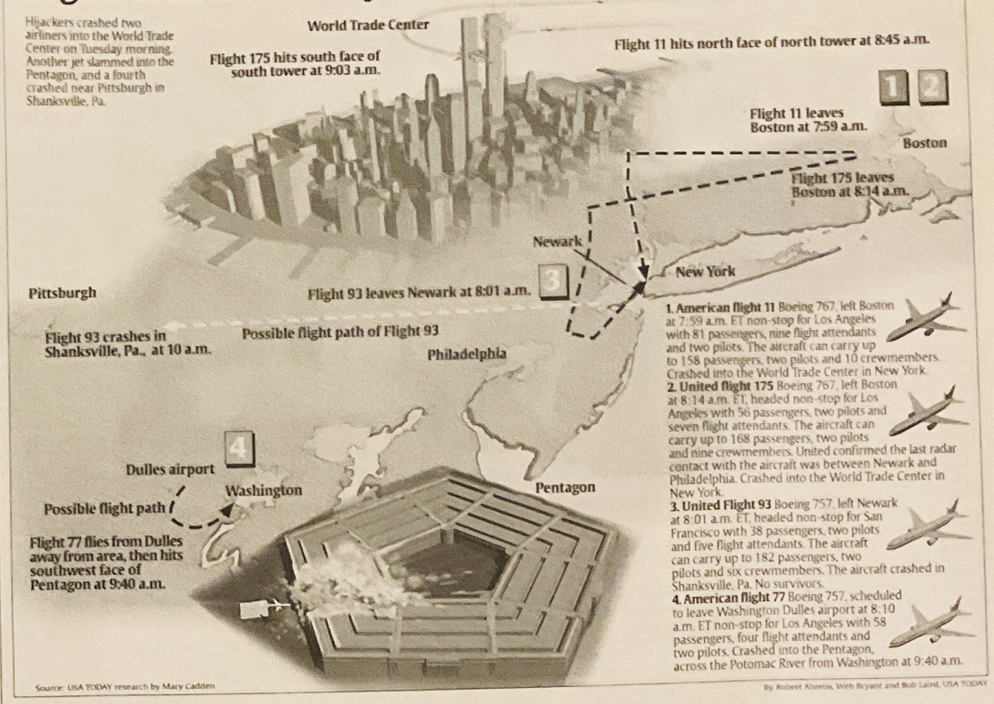
▸ Talk of Tuesday's attacks being another Pearl Harbor is hotly debated. Most agree, though, the USA has witnessed another day of infamy. 1D.

Written by John O. Buckley

USA TODAY .com More on USATODAY.com: Video of terrorist attacks, audio from experts and eyewitnesses, photos of damage and victims, and an interactive look at how the attacks occurred

Flights of terror strike symbols of U.S. strength

Hijackers crashed two airliners into the World Trade Center on Tuesday morning. Another jet slammed into the Pentagon, and a fourth crashed near Pittsburgh in Shanksville, Pa.


World Trade Center
Flight 175 hits south face of south tower at 9:03 a.m.
Flight 11 hits north face of north tower at 8:45 a.m.
1
2
Flight 11 leaves Boston at 7:59 a.m.
Boston
Flight 175 leaves Boston at 8:14 a.m.
Newark
New York
Pittsburgh
Flight 93 leaves Newark at 8:01 a.m.
3
Flight 93 crashes in Shanksville, Pa., at 10 a.m.
Possible flight path of Flight 93
Philadelphia
4
Dulles airport
Washington
Pentagon
Possible flight path
Flight 77 flies from Dulles away from area, then hits southwest face of Pentagon at 9:40 a.m.

1. American flight 11 Boeing 767, left Boston at 7:59 a.m. ET non-stop for Los Angeles with 81 passengers, nine flight attendants and two pilots. The aircraft can carry up to 158 passengers, two pilots and 10 crewmembers. Crashed into the World Trade Center in New York.

2. United flight 175 Boeing 767, left Boston at 8:14 a.m. ET, headed non-stop for Los Angeles with 56 passengers, two pilots and seven flight attendants. The aircraft can carry up to 168 passengers, two pilots and nine crewmembers. United confirmed the last radar contact with the aircraft was between Newark and Philadelphia. Crashed into the World Trade Center in New York.

3. United Flight 93 Boeing 757, left Newark at 8:01 a.m. ET, headed non-stop for San Francisco with 38 passengers, two pilots and five flight attendants. The aircraft can carry up to 182 passengers, two pilots and six crewmembers. The aircraft crashed in Shanksville, Pa. No survivors.

4. American flight 77 Boeing 757, scheduled to leave Washington Dulles airport at 8:10 a.m. ET non-stop for Los Angeles with 58 passengers, four flight attendants and two pilots. Crashed into the Pentagon, across the Potomac River from Washington at 9:40 a.m.

Source: USA TODAY research by Mary Cadden

By Robert Ahrens, Web Bryant and Bob Laird, USA TODAY

America's descent into madness

Attack destroyed lives, landmarks and nation's sense of security

By Richard Willing and Jim Drinkard
USA TODAY

Cascading terrorist attacks hit high-profile targets in New York City and Washington on Tuesday, killing thousands and bringing the mad world of suicide bombers and Middle East terror home to the American mainland.

Damage from the unprecedented attack was still being tallied today, but seemed certain to include thousands of lives, billions of dollars worth of property and the nation's sense of security from the perils of a hating world.

"The pictures of airplanes flying into buildings, fires burning, huge structures collapsing have filled us with disbelief, terrible sadness and a quiet, unyielding anger," President Bush said in a 5-minute address.

"These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat, but they have failed. Our country is strong. Terrorist acts can shake the foundation of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America," Bush said.

Three hijacked commercial airliners loaded with passengers crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon near Washington during rush hour Tuesday morning. By 10:30 a.m., less than 2 hours after the first jet slammed into the first tower, both had collapsed. A fourth hijacked jet crashed near Somerset County Airport at 10 a.m. near Johnstown, Pa.

In New York City, Mayor Rudy Giuliani speculated that thousands of lives had been lost, but there was a ray of hope: At least one victim buried in the rubble was able to telephone his family on a cellphone. In Washington, officials said as many as 790 people who worked in the section of the Pentagon that was hit remained unaccounted for late Tuesday. All 266 passengers and crew aboard the four jets, including an unknown number of hijackers died.

At the World Trade Center, site of a terrorist attack in 1993, witnesses described an incomprehensible scene.

"It was like the building had been hit by an asteroid," said Marty Singer, senior manager of a computer store one block from the 110-story towers. "Fire was shooting out of the side. . . . I saw at least 15 people jump out of the first building. Two were holding hands. I looked away. I couldn't take it anymore."

Federal officials are exploring whether the jet that crashed in Pennsylvania was en route to the Washington area to participate in the attack.

Barbara Olson, the wife of U.S. Solicitor General Theodore Olson, the federal government's top appeals lawyer, was on the jet that crashed into the Pentagon. Barbara Olson, a former federal prosecutor and television commentator, apparently made a last-ditch effort to alert authorities to the jet's hijacking. According to Theodore Olson, Barbara and other passengers were herded into the back of the jet by hijackers using "knife-like" instruments. She pulled out her cellphone and twice called her husband's office at the Justice Department. When she reached her husband, she told him the jet was being hijacked and urged him to quickly call the FBI.

The scene inside the Pentagon was frantic. Tina Engberg, a civilian who works in the building's test and evaluation office, was watching television reports of the New York City attack when she felt a "ka-boom that shook the whole building. People started running and saying, 'Get out of the building.' "

Hyman Brown, a University of Colorado civil engineering professor and the construction manager for the World Trade Center, speculated that flames fueled by thousands of gallons of fuel melted steel supports. "Steel melts, and 24,000 gallons of aviation fluid melted the steel. Nothing is . . . designed to withstand that."

No credible organization claimed responsibility for the attack. But by Tuesday afternoon, federal officials said they had evidence linking Osama bin Laden, Saudi-born sponsor of Islamic terrorism, to the unprecedented action. Earlier, claiming to speak for bin Laden, a spokesman for the Taliban, the revolutionary Islamic movement that leads Afghanistan, denied his involvement.

U.S. intelligence intercepted a communication between two bin Laden operatives reporting that U.S. targets had been hit. The FBI got warrants to search homes in south Florida of suspected bin Laden supporters after researching manifests of the hijacked planes.

Investigators also declined to say how they believe the attacks were carried out. One working theory: The terrorists were trained pilots who overwhelmed cabin crews then flew the jets themselves.

According to a posting on a Web site used by American Airlines flight attendants, an attendant aboard the first hijacked jet to hit the towers tried to call in a warning on a cellphone. She told an airline manager that two flight attendants and a passenger had been stabbed and that the attackers were using pepper spray on the cockpit crew.

Aviation sources said that in at least two of the jets, hijackers apparently turned off transponders, making it more difficult to track them.

The federal government quickly placed the nation on a full-scale alert. The attacks seemed to represent an unprecedented failure of American security. On July 13, Federal Aviation Administration officials moved to inform commercial airlines of an imminent terrorist threat. But sources said the FAA and the airlines focused on the possibility of a bomb being smuggled aboard an airplane.

"This is a big intelligence failure," said Lawrence Eagleburger, a secretary of State in 1992-93 under Bush's father. "This is an act of war. This is the biggest equivalent to Pearl Harbor that we've had in 60 years."

National security sources said they are working under the premise that the attacks will be renewed. Tuesday, Bush sent warships to stand guard in the Atlantic. All domestic commercial flights were suspended until at least noon today.

The impact on national life was immediate and profound.

Bush cut short a Florida trip and flew to military air bases in Louisiana and Nebraska as a security precaution before flying back to Washington. Airports nationwide were closed, forcing the grounding of more than 3,600 aircraft. Supreme Court justices and congressional leaders were ferried to safe locations outside Washington. The U.S. Capitol was closed.

Churches in countless cities and towns held special services often with overflow attendance. In Oklahoma City, site of Timothy McVeigh's terrorist bombing in 1995, Donna Mackie volunteered to give blood and found 300 people had showed up ahead of her. The ultimate impact on American life may be on the nation's sense of security. Tony Cordesman, a military and Middle East expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said that is likely to be profound.

"No one of us — in government or counterterrorist experts outside government — believed that anyone was capable of launching an attack with this degree of lethality and coordination," he said.

Bush, in his address, seemed to acknowledge that when he concluded with a quote from Psalm 23: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil for you are with me.

"America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this time," the president continued. "None of us will ever forget this day."

By Ricky Flores, The (Westchester, N.Y.) Journal News

Attack site: New York City firefighters raise the flag in the rubble of the World Trade Center. Two hijacked airliners smashed into the Trade Center on Tuesday, causing the towers to collapse.

Contributing: Richard Benedetto, Barbara Slavin, Jill Lawrence, Thor Valdmanis, Joan Biskupic, Tom Squitieri, Laurence McQuillan, Cheryl Phillips, Jim Cox, Scott Hillkirk, Paul Overberg, Ed Foster-Simeon, Judy Keen, Andrea Stone, David Moniz, Kevin McCoy, Jonathan Weisman, Donna Leinwand, Jim Healey, Chris Woodyard, Bill Welch, Jessica Lee, Martha Moore, Pete Eisler, Fred Gaskins, David Mastio, Mel Antonen, David Colton, James Healey, Toni Locy, Rachel Shuster, Kevin Johnson and Kathy Kiely.

KF

Under attack
The toll

Reaching a final death toll could take weeks

Officials say survivors may be few

By Maria Puente
USA TODAY

"More than most of us can bear."

How many dead? How many injured? The simple answer, New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani said, is that no one knows. Not yet. Maybe not for a while.

"But the number of casualties will be more than most of us can bear," the distraught mayor said Tuesday, hours after two terrorist-controlled commercial jets struck the mighty World Trade Center, leading to the collapse of the twin towers into mounds of burning rubble with hundreds, maybe thousands dead or dying.

President Bush on Tuesday night put the death toll in the thousands.

"The victims were in airplanes or in their offices," Bush said. "Secretaries, businessmen and women, military and federal workers. Moms and dads. Friends and neighbors. Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror."

Uncertainty about the fate of co-workers and loved ones gripped New York and Washington, where another hijacked commercial airliner crashed into the Pentagon, collapsing one side of the building and sparking an inferno so intense that firefighters were unable to guess the number of victims.

Another ghastly scene unfolded outside Pittsburgh, where a fourth passenger jet crashed into a grassy field, minutes after a man who said he was a passenger told an emergency dispatcher in a cellphone call, "We are being hijacked! We are being hijacked!"

Late Tuesday night, a final toll was days, perhaps weeks away. But the victims will likely include:

▸ A total of 266 passengers and crewmembers on the four commercial jets.

▸ Office workers in the twin towers, where 50,000 people normally worked.

By Dan Loh, AP

Overcome: Patricia Evers wipes away tears during a church service on Tuesday in Philadelphia. Evers was praying for the victims of the tragedy.

▸ Military and civilian personnel in the Pentagon, where 20,000 people work. Of the 850 people working in the wing of the building that was hit, only 60 had been accounted for Tuesday night.

▸ New York police and firefighters who rushed to the rescue and then were trapped when the towers collapsed barely an hour after the jets struck. There was an unconfirmed report from New York police sources that more than 300 firefighters and 85 police officers are missing and feared dead.

▸ People standing on the street below when the buildings came down.

Few of those presumed or confirmed dead were identified by late Tuesday. One prominent victim was Barbara Olson, a former federal prosecutor, wife of U.S. Solicitor General Theodore Olson and television commentator. Barbara Olson, 45, was on the jet that crashed into the Pentagon.

The pilot of American Airlines Flight 11, which crashed into the World Trade Center, was identified as John Ogonowski, 52, of Dracut, Mass. "I consider my brother a hero for many reasons," said his brother, Jim Ogonowski. John Ogonowski leaves a wife and three daughters. The co-pilot was identified by his church as Tom McGuinness of Portsmouth, N.H. He leaves a wife and two teenage children.

Another of the dead on Flight 11 was identified as Edmund Glazer, 41, chief financial officer and vice president of the high-tech firm MRV Communications in Chatsworth, Calif., company officials said. Also killed: David Angell, 54, one of the creators of television's *Frasier*, and Daniel Lewin, 31, co-founder of Akamai Technologies in Cambridge, Mass.

Authorities in Colorado confirmed the identity of one of the pilots of United Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania. He was Jason Dahl, 43, of Jefferson County in suburban Denver. Dahl's family "are absolutely paralyzed with grief. They are beyond words," said Jackie Tallman, a spokeswoman for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. "They really need some time to grieve."

At least 600 people were reported undergoing treatment at New York-area hospitals, 200 of them in critical condition. An additional 1,600 "walking wounded" were treated at Liberty State Park in New Jersey.

There was ominous evidence to suggest that the death toll in New York City might be staggering — fewer injured victims than expected went to hospitals. Medical officials speculated that most of those in or near the World Trade Center towers when they collapsed may be dead.

Mark Ackermann, of St. Vincent Catholic Medical Center, estimated that about one-half of the more than 300 patients his facility had treated by late afternoon were residents of the neighborhood around the towers. The other half were people hurt when they stopped to help and were caught in the collapse. The medical center is the closest trauma center to the World Trade Center towers. He said very few seemed to be people from inside the towers.

Leonard Aubrey, president of New York University Downtown Hospital, said New York police had asked his hospital to set up a temporary morgue.

"The speculation has been that those who were not able to escape could be fatalities," Aubrey said. "This cleanup activity is not going to happen overnight. It's going to take days. I'm assuming this is going to be a digging operation for days. The question is, are there going to be any survivors on site?"

Some Washington-area hospitals also reported fewer than expected patients. John Sverha, chairman of the emergency response team at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington near the Pentagon, said the hospital treated 31 people, including six in critical condition. But the hospital didn't need to use most of the 100 nurses and 50 emergency-room doctors it had called in.

Contributing: Patrick O'Driscoll, Jerry Shriver, Gary Levin, Kevin McCoy, Cheryl Phillips, Andy Gardiner, Scott Bowles, Donna Leinwand and wire reports

Ex-prosecutor made calls for help from jet

She was half of one of Washington's most influential power couples, and one of her last actions Tuesday apparently was a heroic, take-charge effort to stop a hijacking.

Barbara Olson, the wife of U.S. Solicitor General Theodore Olson, was on the jet that crashed into the Pentagon Tuesday.

Barbara Olson, a former federal prosecutor, congressional investigator and, most recently, television commentator, tried to alert authorities to the hijacking of the jet that had left Washington Dulles International Airport and was headed for Los Angeles.

CNN

Olson: Killed in jet crash at Pentagon.

Associates of her husband said that after she and the other passengers were herded into the back of the aircraft, she pulled out her cellphone and twice called her husband's office at the Justice Department. When she reached her husband, she told him the jet was being hijacked and urged him to quickly notify the FBI.

CNN, the network for which Olson worked, reported that she also told her husband that the hijackers were wielding knives and cardboard cutters and that their motives were not readily apparent.

Since their marriage 5 years ago, the Olsons have been a formidable conservative pair.

She wrote a biting biography of former first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

He successfully represented George W. Bush at the Supreme Court last December, stopping the Florida recounts and guaranteeing Bush the White House.

CNN said Barbara Olson was scheduled to fly out of Washington on Monday but stayed until Tuesday morning to have breakfast with her husband. Tuesday was his birthday.

By Joan Biskupic

Air travel will be forever changed

By Laura Parker
USA TODAY

Passengers can expect heightened scrutiny, restrictions, officials say

WASHINGTON — Air travel in the USA stopped Tuesday for the first time in the nation's history, as all commercial flights were grounded in response to the terrorist attack.

Now, as the Federal Aviation Administration hopes to reopen the airways today, the American public may never fly quite with as much ease again.

"Just like the world changed on Dec. 7, 1941, our air transportation is going to change," says Michael McCarron, deputy director of San Francisco International Airport.

"We will never travel again in the air like we did yesterday," says Reynold Hoover, a former federal agent who now teaches seminars on aviation counterterrorism.

Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta says passengers can expect random checks for identification and greater scrutiny. Curbside baggage check-in will be suspended indefinitely. Airports will be staffed with armed police officers and bomb-sniffing dogs.

The government and the airlines have long tried to balance security needs against the need to keep the country moving. That debate flared in 1988 — and security was heightened — after the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 and again during the 1991 Gulf War.

Al Becker, a spokesman for American Airlines, says it's still unclear how those competing agendas will be meshed.

"You could turn the nation's airports into armed fortresses, but *could you then operate a convenient transportation system?*" he asks. "The issue is, how much security can be provided? I don't think anybody knows the answer to that question yet."

The Federal Aviation Administration grounded all commercial flights at 9:49 a.m. ET, about an hour after American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the first World Trade Center tower. By then, the other terrorist attacks on the three other jets were underway, and there were about 3,600 other commercial jets in the sky.

In Newark, Susan Baer, general manager for the New Jersey Airports, didn't even wait for the call from the FAA. She decided to close Newark, which usually handles 1,400 flights a day carrying 90,000 passengers, after she looked out her window and saw the United Airlines jet crash into the other World Trade Center tower.

The shutdown spread beyond U.S. airports. Canada's airports were closed, although they accepted at least 120 U.S. flights that had been diverted to airports there.

Amtrak stopped its trains, although they resumed again by day's end.

Greyhound, the nation's largest bus line, shut down, but plans to resume service today except in Washington, New York, Newark and Norfolk, Va.

The scope of the disruption to the nation's aviation system was unprecedented. Air traffic controllers scrambled to sort through the logistics of shepherding several thousand airborne jets back to the ground quickly.

About an hour after Capt. Jay Meinen's Boeing 737 took off from Cleveland, a controller told him, "Divert the plane. You are not flying to Los Angeles anymore. Please prepare to land at Indianapolis. This is a national emergency."

US Airways Capt. Bob Smith was ordered to land his Seattle-bound Flight 131, which had just taken off from Philadelphia, in Savoy, Ill.

"I've never experienced anything of this magnitude," Smith said.

United Airlines, which lost two jets to hijackers, shut down operations worldwide. Some Southwest flights ended up in cities the airline doesn't even serve.

A Thai Airways flight from Bangkok, bound for Los Angeles, was escorted by two F-16 fighter jets to San Francisco, where it landed without incident.

The scene inside airport terminals, including the hubs of Denver, Chicago, Atlanta and Dallas, was much the same. The line of cars outside Denver International Airport stretched 3 miles. Cars were kept away from the terminals by police. Vehicles left empty, even momentarily, were towed.

Inside, the departure concourses were virtually empty. Chaos reigned in baggage.

At one point, there were 30,000 passengers inside the terminal at Atlanta's Hartsfield, the country's busiest airport. Kevin McCaskey, 47, of Lancaster, Pa., says he'd rather not fly ever again. "I'm very scared," he says. "I wish I didn't have to fly anymore, but I don't think my job would allow that."

Passengers who were normally circumspect about airline weather delays found Tuesday's events horrifying.

"I'm afraid about what's next," says Denise McCorkle, 67, of Evansville, Ill., who was turned away from Los Angeles International Airport as it was evacuated. "What's next? The schools? The churches? How can they take our planes and crash them into our buildings? I heard someone compare this to Pearl Harbor. This is worse."

In Atlanta, Enid Short, 82, learned of the disaster as she was sitting on the runway at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago.

"The pilot got on the intercom an... said we weren't going to take off," she says. "There had been a catastrophe in New York."

Short's plane sat on the ground for 3 hours before returning to the terminal. As the plane nosed into the gate, the pilot came on the radio again:

"Look out our left window," he told the passengers. "You'll see the skyline, still intact. Things are going to be OK here in Chicago."

Contributing: Edward Iwata, Marilyn Adams, Pat O'Driscoll, Fred Bayles, Scott Bowles, Larry Copeland, James Cox, Debbie Howlett, Blake Morrison, wire reports.

Clearing the skies

When the Federal Aviation Administration grounded U.S. air traffic at 9:49 a.m. ET, it was tracking about 3,600 flights. By noon on a weekday, the FAA normally is tracking more than 5,000 flights. **Air traffic Tuesday:**

Source: Federal Aviation Administration, Dimensions International
Research by Paul Overberg; graphic by Dave Merrill, USA TODAY

Passenger's frantic call preceded jet crash near Pittsburgh

By Tom Kenworthy
USA TODAY

SHANKSVILLE, Pa. — Moments after a man who said he was a passenger aboard a United Airlines flight told an emergency dispatcher in a chilling cellphone call, "We are being hijacked, we are being hijacked," the jet with 45 aboard slammed into a grassy field near this south-central Pennsylvania community.

FBI special agent Jeff Killeen said at the crash scene Tuesday night that authorities "are treating this as a criminal act." He would not specifically link it to Tuesday's apparent terrorist attacks that sent three United and American airline flights crashing into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon.

United Flight 93, a Boeing 757, was on a scheduled flight from Newark, N.J., to San Francisco. It had almost reached Cleveland when it diverted from its course and crashed north of Somerset County airport, about 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

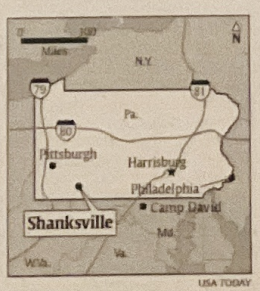
The crash occurred in part of a reclaimed strip mine, leaving an 8-foot-deep gouge more than 15-feet long in the ground and hurling wreckage into nearby woods.

Hundreds of police, fire, National Guard and other rescue personnel were on the scene. "There were no survivors," Killeen said. Authorities in Colorado confirmed the identity of one of the pilots as Jason Dahl, 43, of suburban Denver.

Gov. Tom Ridge, who toured the crash site by air, called Tuesday's events a "despicable, unconscionable and immoral act."

"How do you explain this to my children, to America's children?" he said. "There is no rational explanation. I guess you tell them that there are people who don't share our values."

An emergency 911 dispatcher received a cellphone call at 9:58 a.m. from a man who said he was a passenger locked in a bathroom aboard the flight, Westmoreland County dispatch supervisor Glenn Cramer told the Associated Press.



USA TODAY

The man repeatedly told officials the call was not a hoax.

"We are being hijacked, we are being hijacked!" Cramer quoted the man as saying. The man told dispatchers that the jet "was going down. He heard some sort of explosion and saw white smoke coming from the plane, and we lost contact with him," Cramer said.

Alice Hoglan told KTVU-TV in San Francisco that her son, passenger Mark Bingham, 31, also phoned from the plane. "We've been taken over. There are three men that say they have a bomb," Hoglan said her son told her.

John Walsh, 72, saw the immediate aftermath of the crash from his nearby home in Lambertsville.

"I looked out my window when I heard the explosion and saw this big orange ball of fire," Walsh said. "When it hit it looked like an atomic bomb went off. It was just terrible." Walsh said he leapt into his truck and drove to within 300 yards of the crash site. "I wanted to see if I could help anybody. But there was just burning parts, that's all. I looked down the hill and saw nothing but a big crater. You could not tell it was an air crash, the debris was so widely scattered."

Karl Landis, 58, saw the crash from about a half-mile away while driving his pickup. "It came in, rolled slightly to the left and appeared to hit the ground at almost a 90-degree angle," he said. "It seemed like an eternity, but it must have been only a few seconds. It evaporated into a huge fireball that turned into black smoke."

United said Flight 93 left Newark at 8:01 a.m. with 38 passengers, two pilots and five flight attendants. United said it was sending a team to Pennsylvania to assist in the investigation and to provide assistance to family members.

In nearby Richland Township, Police Chief Jim Mock said air traffic control coordinators reported Tuesday morning that a large aircraft was heading toward John Murtha Johnstown Cambria County Municipal Airport, about 60 miles east of Pittsburgh.

The air traffic controllers said the aircraft would not identify itself, according to Mock, who is also the airport's emergency coordinator. Shortly after talking to the controllers, Mock said, a plane crashed north of the Somerset County airport about 20 miles away.

"It shook the whole station," said Bruce Grine, owner of Grine's Service Center in Shanksville, about 2 1/2 miles from the crash.

At San Francisco International Airport, an evacuation was ordered. Bomb-sniffing dogs patrolled the emptying hallways and a counseling center was set up for relatives of the people aboard Flight 93. In Shanksville, authorities hurried to seal off the crash scene. The search for evidence, including the plane's flight recorders, is to begin this morning, along with the task of recovering bodies.

Contributing: John Bacon and wire services

Intercepted messages point to bin Laden

If elusive Saudi is responsible, retaliation likely will be difficult

By Barbara Slavin
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials have obtained information that points to exiled Saudi multimillionaire Osama bin Laden as the mastermind of the worst act of terrorism against the United States.

A senior government official said U.S. intelligence intercepted communications that could implicate bin Laden supporters in Tuesday's horrific attacks on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon. The official, who did not want his name used, said the government did not have evidence that any foreign country played a direct role in the attacks.

U.S. law enforcement officials combed the manifests of the four hijacked jetliners and found some names that supported suspicions that bin Laden was involved, the official said.

Federal agents reportedly planned to search a home or homes in South Florida in connection with the attack. A television station in Miami reported that the searches centered on a passenger or passengers listed on the manifest of one of the hijacked jets.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, described the intercepted communications to the Associated Press. "They have ... some information that included people associated with bin Laden who acknowledged a couple of targets were hit," Hatch said.

Bin Laden, 44, has become U.S. counterterrorism target No. 1 and was placed on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list 2 years ago. He was indicted as the mastermind of the bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa that killed 224 people in 1998. He also is a suspect in last October's bombing of the Navy destroyer *USS Cole* in Yemen. The blast killed 17 sailors.

If the U.S. government concludes that bin Laden is responsible, President Bush will face a difficult decision about retaliation, experts say. Options include:

▸ *Attempting to target bin Laden personally at his sanctuary in* Afghanistan with cruise missiles or airstrikes.

▸ Giving an ultimatum to Afghanistan's Taliban regime to turn him over or face attacks.

▸ Putting more pressure on Pakistan, Afghanistan's neighbor, to isolate the Taliban regime.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the U.S. government was "in no way connected" to explosions in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, early today.

The rocket fire could have been retaliation for what U.S. officials say was the assassination of Afghan opposition leader Ahmad Shah Masood on Sunday. Bin Laden is believed responsible for that attack as well.

Gen. Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, declined to discuss possible U.S. retaliatory steps. But he told reporters, "Make no mistake about it. Your armed forces are ready."

International sanctions aimed at cutting arms supplies and normal commerce with Afghanistan have failed to persuade the Taliban to exp: bin Laden. Cruise missile strikes in 1998 aimed at his training camps missed him.

Experts cautioned that a massive strike against Afghanistan might intensify hatred of the United States in the region without hitting bin Laden, who is believed to change his hiding place frequently and to sleep in caves.

"Afghanistan is a very difficult place to operate in," said Samuel Berger, national security adviser to President Clinton. "Whatever we do, people have to understand that we're in for the long haul and that this is not something that can be dealt with one airstrike. It will require a sustained effort." He also warned that retaliation could provoke new attacks on the United States.

Other experts cautioned about jumping to conclusions about who carried out the attacks, but they agreed that the likely culprit is bin Laden. He has waged a terrorist war against the United States since 1992, when followers tried to kill U.S. servicemen in Yemen.

"Bin Laden has shown he has the capability to conduct coordinated attacks on an international level," says Kenneth Katzman, an expert on Middle East terrorism at the Congressional Research Service.

The son of a Saudi construction baron, bin Laden has a personal fortune estimated at $300 million and a loose network of supporters that might number thousands. Bin Laden's goal, the State Department says, is to evict all non-Muslims from Muslim countries.

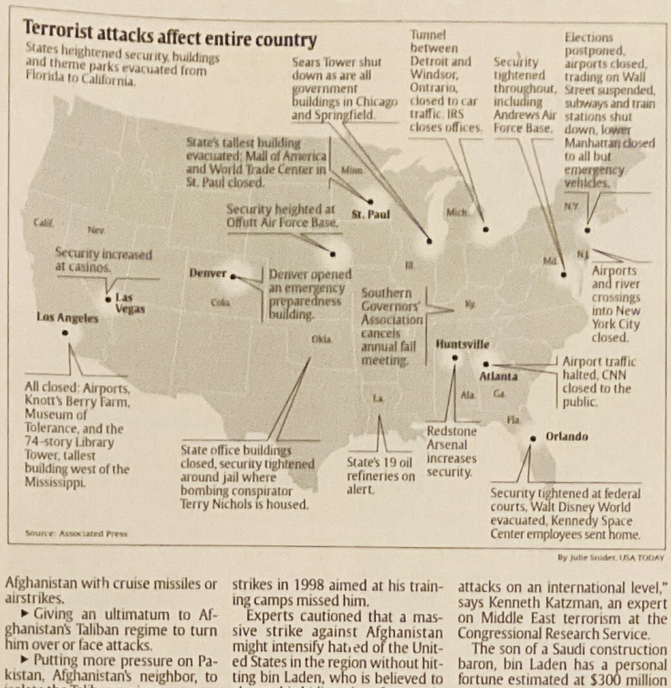
In addition to allegedly plotting the bombings in Africa, bin Laden is linked to those convicted of bombing the World Trade Center in 1993. That blast, which killed six people and injured more than 1,000, failed to produce Tuesday's catastrophic results.

In Afghanistan, the Taliban regime, which has sheltered bin Laden since 1996, condemned the attacks and rejected suggestions that bin Laden was behind them.

Experts questioned whether terrorists had been able to infiltrate U.S. airlines and lie low for months.

Some wondered whether the attacks had been timed to precede a sentencing hearing scheduled today for a bin Laden associate for his role in the embassy bombings. The sentencing had been set for the federal courthouse near the World Trade Center.

Abdel-Bari Atwan, editor of the *Al-Quds al-Arabi* newspaper in London, told the Associated Press he had received a warning from Islamic fundamentalists close to bin Laden but did not take it seriously.


Terrorist attacks affect entire country
States heightened security, buildings and theme parks evacuated from Florida to California.
Sears Tower shut down as are all government buildings in Chicago and Springfield.
Tunnel between Detroit and Windsor, Ontario, closed to car traffic. IRS closes offices.
Security tightened throughout, including Andrews Air Force Base.
Elections postponed, airports closed, trading on Wall Street suspended, subways and train stations shut down, lower Manhattan closed to all but emergency vehicles.
State's tallest building evacuated; Mall of America and World Trade Center in St. Paul closed.
St. Paul
Security heighted at Offutt Air Force Base.
Security increased at casinos.
Las Vegas
Denver
Denver opened an emergency preparedness building.
Los Angeles
All closed: Airports, Knott's Berry Farm, Museum of Tolerance, and the 74-story Library Tower, tallest building west of the Mississippi.
Southern Governors' Association cancels annual fall meeting.
Huntsville
Atlanta
Airport traffic halted, CNN closed to the public.
Airports and river crossings into New York City closed.
State office buildings closed, security tightened around jail where bombing conspirator Terry Nichols is housed.
State's 19 oil refineries on alert.
Redstone Arsenal increases security.
Orlando
Security tightened at federal courts, Walt Disney World evacuated, Kennedy Space Center employees sent home.
Source: Associated Press

By Julie Snider, USA TODAY

Al Jazeera TV via Agence France-Presse

Prime suspect: Osama bin Laden is believed to have orchestrated attacks on U.S. embassies in Africa and on the USS Cole in Yemen.

Bloody days in American history

The Battle of Antietam, Sept. 17, 1862, is known as the single bloodiest day in American history. About 2,000 Union soldiers and 2,700 Confederate soldiers were killed. About 19,000 people from both sides were injured, of which 3,000 later died. Other notable incidents affecting U.S. interests:

Attack	Date	Killed	Wounded	Missing
Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor	Dec. 7, 1941	2,388	1,178	
D-Day, the Normandy landings	June 6, 1944	1,465 U.S. soldiers	3,184	1,928
Terrorist truck bombing of Marines in Beirut	Oct. 23, 1983	241		
Scud missile attack on U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia	Feb. 24, 1991	28	100	
Terrorist bombing of the World Trade Center in New York	Feb. 26, 1993	6	More than 1,000	
A warlord's attack on U.S. peacekeeping troops in Somalia	Oct. 3, 1993	12	75	
Oklahoma City federal building bombing	April 19, 1995	168	500	
Terrorist bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania	Aug. 7, 1998	224, including 12 Americans	5,000	
Terrorist bombing of USS Cole in Yemen	Oct. 12, 2000	17	39	

Source: USA TODAY research

'Our intelligence was lousy': Blame game begins

Investigation expected to be the largest in U.S. history

By Jack Kelley, Kevin Johnson and Toni Locy
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials have begun examining airport security camera tapes, airline voice recorders and passenger lists as part of what they said will be the largest criminal investigation in U.S. history to determine who was behind Tuesday's terrorist attacks.

"Think of it as several Oklahoma City bombings wrapped up in one," said former FBI deputy director William Esposito, who investigated the 1995 federal building bombing that killed 168 people.

Late Tuesday, there were signs that law enforcement officials were moving quickly on suspicions that the attacks were the work of a worldwide terrorism network overseen by Osama bin Laden, a Saudi multimillionaire who has been indicted in the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in east Africa that killed 224 people.

Law enforcement sources said that FBI agents received approval for "a couple" of warrants to search the homes of suspected bin Laden sympathizers in Daytona Beach and Hollywood, Fla. The sources said investigators obtained the warrants based on names culled from passenger lists of the airliners used in the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Besides trying to determine who was behind the attacks, the investigation will focus on why U.S. intelligence agencies failed to detect such well-orchestrated acts of terrorism. The probe also will take a look at the Federal Aviation Administration, which law enforcement sources said did not alert authorities as two passenger jets veered off course and closed in on the Trade Center's towers.

Already, there appears to be finger-pointing and hand-wringing among U.S. officials over who is to blame for what many are calling the greatest security breach in the nation's history. Veteran air-traffic controllers bn Tuesday rejected law enforcement officials' suggestion that the FAA's warning system had failed. They said it was too early to know precisely who was notified about the hijacked jets.

An FAA security official said that more than eight weeks ago, federal officials at airports nationwide were ordered to warn air carriers of "credible evidence" that terrorists were planning to strike U.S. airports. But the warning on July 13 was focused largely on unattended bags, not hijacking, the official said.

On the fifth floor of FBI headquarters, angry and baffled law enforcement officials, including Attorney General John Ashcroft and U.S. Army Special Forces officers dressed in camouflage, packed the Special Emergency Operations Center to begin sifting through the first clues from the crime scenes.

"Our intelligence was lousy," said Paul Bremer, former U.S. ambassador for counterterrorism during the Reagan administration. "We've been too tentative and cautious in our efforts to get it."

Intelligence and law enforcement sources said it's too soon to know for sure who masterminded the attacks, but they were unanimous in pointing to bin Laden, who repeatedly has vowed to attack U.S. interests.

"Osama bin Laden is believed to be target No. 1" of the investigation, former secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said. "There's no one else with the expertise to carry this off."

The FBI dispatched its disaster response and evidence-recovery teams to New York, Washington and western Pennsylvania, where the four airliners involved in the terrorist attacks crashed. It also established crime scene investigations in Washington, New York, Newark, Boston and Pittsburgh.

Thousands of agents from all of the FBI's 56 U.S. field offices, several overseas offices and Washington headquarters raced out of their offices with packed bags and piled into unmarked cars and vans to begin months of what is certain to be a tedious worldwide probe, officials said. Nearly every U.S. law enforcement agency will be tapped.

"We will find the people responsible for these cowardly acts and justice will be done," Ashcroft said. "The determination of these terrorists will not deter the determination of the American people."

In nearby Langley, Va., CIA analysts scoured over weeks of intelligence data gathered by the agency's case officers and telephone interceptions recorded by the National Security Agency to also determine who was responsible.

Law enforcement officials said their working theory is that the hijackers, armed with knives and cardboard-box cutters, were pilots themselves who overpowered the commercial pilots and took control of the jets. Two investigators said the cockpit radio on one of the jets involved in the attacks remained on during the hijacking, allowing air-traffic controllers to listen in on what the investigators described as a confrontation followed by "sounds of duress."

One of the commercial pilots was able to activate a cockpit warning code that alerts air traffic controllers that a jet has been hijacked, sources said.

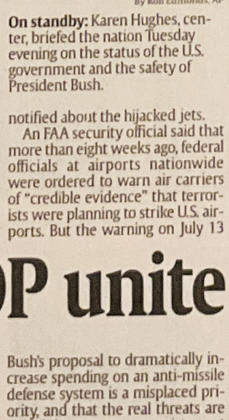
Senior U.S. officials said that they had "no specific threats" to warn them about the bombings of the Trade Center or the Pentagon.

But they did have "credible intelligence" in the past month that bin Laden, with possible help from the militant Muslim group Hezbollah, had planned to launch an attack against several U.S. targets overseas. That led U.S. officials to put troops in Japan on alert and to suspend operations at more than a dozen U.S. embassies overseas.

The sophistication of Tuesday's attacks indicates that they were sponsored by bin Laden or carried out by a country hostile to the USA such as Iraq or Iran, analysts said.

U.S. officials and analysts said the attacks probably had been planned for months, if not years.

"You aren't talking about three containers of fertilizer in a truck," says former FBI counterterrorism official Harry "Skip" Brandon, referring to the Oklahoma bombing. "You're talking about a very organized, sophisticated effort. It would take lots of training and practice."



By Ron Edmonds, AP

On standby: Karen Hughes, center, briefed the nation Tuesday evening on the status of the U.S. government and the safety of President Bush.

Democrats, GOP unite 'shoulder to shoulder'

By Kathy Kiely
and William M. Welch
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Determined to demonstrate that terrorism will not drive them from the "People's House," congressional leaders returned from an undisclosed hideaway Tuesday evening to make a bipartisan show of strength on the steps of the Capitol.

Surrounded by dozens of their colleagues, the top Democrats and Republicans from the House and Senate gathered under the marble dome as darkness descended on the Capitol to vow unity in the face of crisis. Afterward, they burst into a spontaneous, a cappella chorus of *God Bless America*.

"We are here to declare our resolve has not been weakened by these horrific and cowardly acts," Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said. House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., declared that Republicans and Democrats are united "shoulder to shoulder."

The unusual appearance by leaders of both houses of Congress from both political parties was choreographed as an antidote to a day in which fear turned the nation's capital into a ghost town and left the workplace of the country's elected representatives abandoned and wrapped in police crime scene tape.

Members were acutely aware of the symbolic shock value of the closing of the Capitol, where openness during even extreme crises has been a point of pride.

"We're not going to let them stop our government," Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said.

Both chambers of Congress are scheduled to be back in the Capitol this morning, when they will consider resolutions condemning the terrorist attacks. Lawmakers said they are planning to go back to business as usual later this week.

Already, new policy debates and disagreements were emerging:

▸ Many lawmakers said the attacks underscored the need for beefing up counterterrorism efforts. Some said that President Bush's proposal to dramatically increase spending on an anti-missile defense system is a misplaced priority, and that the real threats are posed by unseen terrorists, not foreign missiles.

Rep. Jim Moran, D-Va., said missile defense spending "is not relevant" in the current climate of international terrorism. Ironically, he and other members of the defense appropriations subcommittee had been scheduled to consider transferring $800 million from Bush's missile-defense initiative to counterterrorism efforts when the Capitol was evacuated.

▸ Conservative lawmakers launched sharp attacks on the nation's national security establishment. They said the broad terrorist assaults represented a catastrophic collapse of intelligence-gathering capabilities. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif., said, "Those senior executives that we've been paying in our national security apparatus have utterly failed."

▸ Lawmakers are preparing for a renewed debate over how open the Capitol, White House and other institutions of democracy should remain. It's a debate that has arisen several times over the past decade. In each case, the result was tighter security, including the closing of part of Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House, but with continued public access. Congress, where thousands of tourists visit every day, is the most visible symbol of the openness of American society, and it will be the site of proposals to limit public access.

"This type of action can't be deterred by building security," Rep. Martin Frost, D-Texas, said. "Now, you can have increased airport security. I think those of us who travel a lot will be willing to put up with some inconvenience."

Already, lawmakers are readying proposals to deal with each of these debates.

In the Senate, Democrat John Edwards of North Carolina and others want to create a counterterrorism czar and give the CIA director more legal authority to deal with terrorists.

"What's clear is the most serious and imminent threat to the national security of this country is in the form of terrorism," Edwards said.

Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Calif., a member of the GOP House leadership team, argued just the opposite. Cox, who met Tuesday morning with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld at the Pentagon and left just moments before the building was hit by a hijacked jetliner, issued an impassioned statement attacking Democrats for attempting to block the funds for a missile defense. "Perhaps now we will listen, and unite," he said.

Leaders of the Senate Intelligence Committee acknowledged there are widespread concerns about U.S. intelligence capabilities, both in gathering information and in analyzing data. "We were caught flat-footed," said the panel's top-ranking Republican, Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama. "It was a failure of great dimension."

The Intelligence Committee chairman, Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., said: "We need to make a greater investment in human intelligence — old-fashioned spies."

Lawmakers were united in their call for retaliation. Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., said the United States should target both the perpetrators of Tuesday's terror and any countries that have been harboring them. "At this point, you can't just turn the other cheek, or you'll get more," he said.

But lawmakers said many questions will have to be answered before they can respond to Tuesday's attacks. "Clearly, we should wait ... until we have the facts," before making an assessment, said Sen. John Warner, R-Va., his party's top-ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Some lawmakers conceded there may be no way to make an open society completely invulnerable to terrorist attacks.

"To say we can guarantee against this is impossible," Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., said.

Contributing: Jessica Lee and Scott Hillkirk

Carnage rains down from NYC heights

Smoke, debris and chaos fill the streets

By Martha T. Moore
USA TODAY

NEW YORK — There is a void, if it could be seen through the black smoke, in the world's most celebrated skyline. The two towers of the World Trade Center, and perhaps thousands of people who went there daily to earn a living, are gone.

They went in an apocalypse of explosions, fireballs, flying debris, a rolling wave of choking smoke and the sickening sight of bodies falling from the sky.

People ran for their lives through the narrow canyons of the financial district as the twin towers, crippled by the impact of direct hits from two airplanes, collapsed in an avalanche of debris and choking smoke.

"It was the most horrific thing I've ever seen in my whole life," said Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who saw the second plane hit the tower. "The number of casualties will be more than most of us can bear."

How many people were killed is unknown, but Giuliani said Tuesday night that there were people still alive in the rubble of buildings around the ruined towers.

"There is hope," he said. "There is hope that there are people that are still alive."

One man trapped under the rubble used his cellphone to reach family in Pennsylvania to give specific directions to 911 officials. He also said he was there with two New York City sergeants.

The thick smoke from the towers' collapse caused a frightening twilight to fall over a sunny New York day. Inches of ash from the destroyed buildings blanketed the southern tip of the city like a freak snowstorm, covering streets closed to all traffic but emergency vehicles. The streets were littered with singed pieces of paper — faxes, forms and memos — remnants of offices blown apart.

Ambulances, with sirens screaming, ferried the wounded to hospitals. City buses were commandeered to bring in hundreds of firefighters and rescue workers. On the streets, people clustered around car radios and watched televisions in shop windows.

With no idea what might happen next, authorities cut off the island of Manhattan. Bridges and tunnels were closed. Subway service stopped for most of the day. Airports closed. Cellphones worked sporadically, and people lined up at pay phones to check on relatives or call home.

Police set up a 185,000-square-foot temporary morgue on a Hudson River pier. As night fell, a fleet of backhoes and generators to provide light were moving in on the disaster area to continue digging for possible survivors.

Many of the earliest victims were feared to be the firefighters who had rushed to the scene of the explosion and were then buried in the collapsed buildings, perhaps as many as half of the first 400 firefighters to arrive.

Among the dead were the Rev. Michael Judge, a Franciscan priest who served as a Fire Department chaplain, and three top city fire officials. One of them, Ray Downey, went to Oklahoma City with a group of New York City firefighters to help after the terrorist attack there. Giuliani said he had just thrown a party for Downey honoring his years of service.

Those who were at ground zero described horrifying carnage from the explosion and the ensuing fireballs that engulfed the buildings. Dozens of trapped workers jumped and fell from the burning towers. A man and a woman jumped holding hands.

"I saw people falling out of the building from the top. People in ties and jackets, free-falling backwards with their hands out. It looked like they were parachuting, but without the parachutes," said Niko Winstral, 26, an associate producer for Fox News Channel who was near the site.

"Near Rector Street, I saw body parts," said John Fulweiler, a maritime attorney whose suit was covered with dust. "I looked down and saw this hunk of flesh."

"I saw six people fall in the space of 10 minutes," said John Carson, an investment banker who lives two blocks from the towers. "Blue jeans, tennis shoes, falling over themselves, falling. They were somersaulting."

"It was an inferno," said Peter Hattersly, who watched the attack from the 10th floor of a nearby building. "After the first plane, you could see the windows on the west side starting to break out. There was no help for anybody. You could see the flames from both sides of the building. Then we saw another plane, a midsize commercial plane, and it looked like it was going to go right into the building. And it did."

"Giant balls of flame burst out of the walls," said Hugh Smyser, a marketing director for an Internet company across the street. "Glass and aluminum sheathing came down like a huge snowstorm."

Steve Devita, a police auto mechanic, rushed to the World Trade Center from police headquarters after the first plane struck. He was helping evacuate workers when the first tower collapsed. The force pushed him face-first under a truck.

"You can't run faster than it's pushing you," he said. "You could not breathe, you could not see." Six inches of debris and ash covered the ground. "You could shovel it like snow," he said.

Mark Flavin, 48, crawled on his hands and knees out of the Fulton Street subway station, which had lost electric power. When he emerged, he was hit by the shock wave from the blast. "It knocked me down the stairs. It was like we were in the middle of a tornado. I am surprised I'm still alive."

Allison Keyes, a WCBS radio reporter, rushed to the trade center after the first plane hit. She was talking to workers who escaped the building when the tower began to collapse. "The police said, 'Run.' And everybody ran. You could hear the building falling behind you. I looked back once and saw bricks flying," she said. The cloud of smoke overtook her as she stopped to help someone who had fallen. "My eyes were open, but it was like you were in a dark room."

Michael Stock, 42, an analyst with Standard and Poor's, ran from the subway station to nearby Battery Park. "Everybody's hair was covered in gray. My shoes were covered in gray. Saw it on my hands. Felt it on my hair. It was in your eyes. My glasses were covered with soot." Then he heard the first tower collapse. His reaction: "Fear. And you didn't know. Was that it, or would there be more? You just kept on walking."

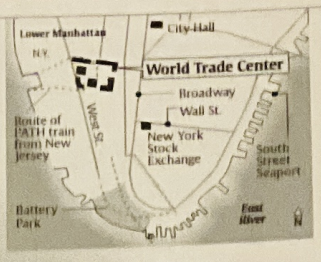
All morning, streams of people walked north from the ravaged financial district. They covered their faces with surgical masks, towels and handkerchiefs. Some, evacuated from nearby apartment buildings, carried their cats in crates or toted gym bags.

"I've seen pictures of Dresden — that's what this is like," said Michael Greenglass, a lawyer who had left his apartment three blocks from the destruction. "People are wandering the streets like refugees." His voice wavered. "I'm trying not to think about how many people I know in that building."

The city responded swiftly in ways both organized and ad hoc. By 10:30 a.m., gurneys were lined up outside St. Vincent's Hospital in Greenwich Village. Dozens of medical workers in green scrubs stood outside, awaiting ambulances.

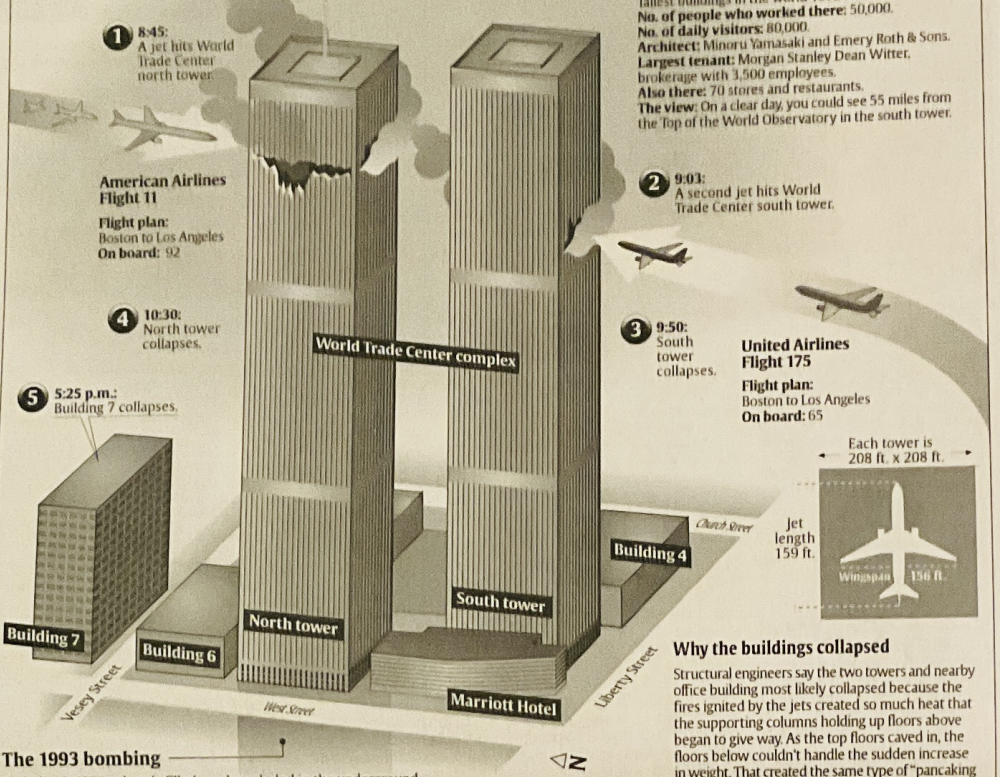
Terror from the sky: First attack hit New York

A day of terror across the East Coast started just before 9 a.m. ET on Tuesday when a hijacked Boeing 767 passenger jet struck one of the towers at New York's World Trade Center. Shortly after, a second hijacked 767 struck the other tower. Then both structures collapsed. Here's a look at what happened in Manhattan. Information was current as of 9:30 p.m. ET on Tuesday.



The World Trade Center

Construction: 1966-73.
Towers' heights: 110 stories. Tallest buildings in the world 1972-74.
No. of people who worked there: 50,000.
No. of daily visitors: 80,000.
Architect: Minoru Yamasaki and Emery Roth & Sons.
Largest tenant: Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, brokerage with 3,500 employees.
Also there: 70 stores and restaurants.
The view: On a clear day, you could see 55 miles from the Top of the World Observatory in the south tower.


1 8:45: A jet hits World Trade Center north tower.
American Airlines Flight 11
Flight plan: Boston to Los Angeles
On board: 92
2 9:03: A second jet hits World Trade Center south tower.
3 9:50: South tower collapses.
United Airlines Flight 175
Flight plan: Boston to Los Angeles
On board: 65
4 10:30: North tower collapses.
5 5:25 p.m.: Building 7 collapses.
World Trade Center complex
Each tower is 208 ft. x 208 ft.
Jet length 159 ft.
Wingspan 156 ft.
Building 7
Building 6
North tower
South tower
Building 4
Marriott Hotel
Vesey Street
West Street
Liberty Street
Church Street

The 1993 bombing

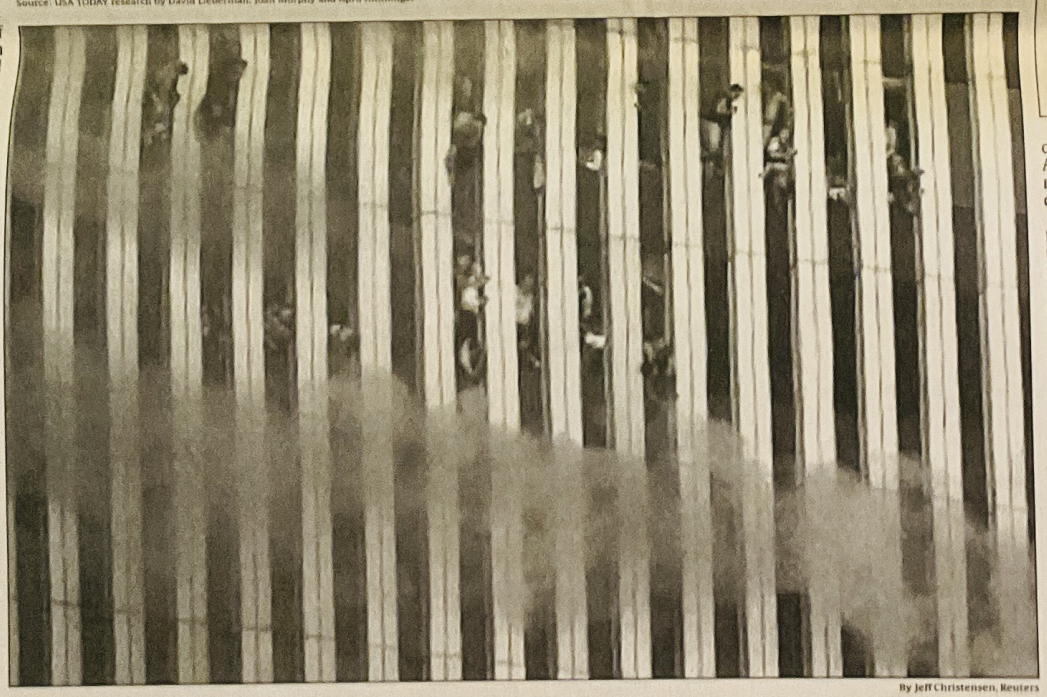
On Feb. 26, 1993, a bomb-filled truck exploded in the underground garage in the north tower and caused a 200-foot wide, 5-story deep hole. The explosion killed 6 people and injured more than 1,000.

Why the buildings collapsed

Structural engineers say the two towers and nearby office building most likely collapsed because the fires ignited by the jets created so much heat that the supporting columns holding up floors above began to give way. As the top floors caved in, the floors below couldn't handle the sudden increase in weight. That created the same type of "pancaking effect" that demolition experts use when they bring down a building with an implosion.

Source: USA TODAY research by David Lieberman, Joan Murphy and April Umminger

By Frank Pompa and staff, USA TODAY



By Jeff Christensen, Reuters

Doomed: People trapped in the north tower of the World Trade Center stand in windows. Moments later, the building collapsed.

By Guinara Samelleva, AP

Streets in shambles: Survivors make their way through the debris-covered streets near the collapsed World Trade Center towers.

A panicked rush down 84 floors

By Edward C. Baig
USA TODAY

GLEN ROCK, N.J. — Brian Clark, a brokerage firm executive, calls himself "a very lucky guy" after he made it out of his office on the 84th floor of 2 World Trade Center.

Clark, who works for Euro Brokers, was at his desk when the first plane slammed into the other tower.

At first, he and other employees thought it had been an accident.

He said people went back to work after an announcement in the building that everything was "under control and secure."

Some co-workers hesitated, he said, because like him, they had experienced the 1993 bombing at the towers.

"All of a sudden, we were rocked again," Clark said.

The second plane hit the tower where he was working. As ceiling tiles rained down, Clark and several others fled to the smoky stairs. At the 81st floor, he heard someone calling, "Help, I'm trapped. I'm trapped."

Clark followed the cries and pulled boards away to free a man. By the time they made it back to the stairwell, "everybody had disappeared," Clark said. "The people I was with, I'm fearful they all went up (the stairs) thinking there were flames below."

At about the 75th floor, the smoky, rancid air cleared, but water poured down the stairs. When the men reached the main floor and the street, a police officer told them, "If you're going to leave the building, you've got to run for it."

They ran for several blocks with many other people, dodging debris.

He said he wanted nothing more than to "get out of town" and headed for home in Mahwah, N.J. He walked to the ferry terminal on Fulton Street to get to New Jersey.

"I know for certain, sadly, that I have lost some workmates," he said. "Have to. Have to. Because they went up (the stairs), instead of down."

The Rev. Jeff Hammer, 68, was one of several chaplains on duty. About 45 people, double the usual number, came to his regular Tuesday noon Mass.

"I told them, of course, to pray for the people who are the victims, the doctors, the staff, the police, the firefighters. And then at the end, I realized I had omitted a very important group of people," Hammer said. "I told them to pray for the people who caused this damage, because they are in as much need of prayer as anyone. I truly believe they have done something quite evil, and somewhere along the line they will be severely punished."

At New York University Downtown Hospital, closest to the blast site, paramedic Benjamin Fogel, 28, said he had been treating the injured at the disaster scene amid "body parts all over" when the second tower started to collapse.

"I jumped into the back of one of the ambulances to save myself," said Fogel, who had head, eye and leg injuries. "I'm just happy to be alive."

New York hospitals and blood banks were flooded with volunteers to donate blood.

In Foley Square, outside the federal courthouse, a crowd of union workers were signing up as volunteers for whatever work was needed. At the Downtown Community Center in Tribeca, just north of the hardest-hit area, a handmade sign read, "Need A Phone?" Two office phones were set out on tables on the sidewalk for people to use.

Since the World Trade Center was bombed in 1993, increased measures against terrorism have become part of the city's life: Concrete anti-truck barriers surround the mayor's residence. City Hall has been surrounded by a fence, with public access cut off.

But Tuesday's attack came from the sky. City Hall and its guard posts were covered in ash from the worst act of terrorism in the country's history.

"I'm shocked and upset and worried for all of us, whatever persuasion," Hugh Smyser said as he walked away from the massive destruction. "I worry this is meant to provoke war, meant to polarize and I worry this will do that."

Contributing: Karl Vilacoba, Charisse Jones, Kevin McCoy, Thor Valdmanis, Noelle Knox, Greg Farrell, Jerry Shriver, Gary Levin, Theresa Howard and Donna Rosato

Under attack
Vulnerable sites

As Pentagon watched NYC news, 'Boom!'

Defense chief helps victims after jet crash starts inferno

By Dave Moniz and Andrea Stone
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The symbol of the world's mightiest military power lay smoldering and partly in ruins Tuesday after a civilian jetliner believed commandeered by terrorists slammed into the southwest corner of the Pentagon. Military officials fear that as many as 800 personnel might have died in the devastating attack.

As about 20,000 uniformed and civilian workers filled the cavernous headquarters of the U.S. armed forces, an explosion shook the walls of the five-sided building. The crash triggered fires and a hurried but calm exodus shortly after 9:30 a.m.

Military officials said there were a large number of injuries, but they could not say how many were killed or wounded. A flatbed truck carrying dozens of metal coffins was parked near the Pentagon, the world's largest office building.

"It's not possible to have solid casualty figures at this time," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said at a news conference inside the Pentagon 9 hours after the attack.

A Pentagon official said Tuesday night that 790 of the 850 people who worked in the destroyed wing were not accounted for.

Many at the Pentagon said they were watching horrific TV images of the twin World Trade Center towers burning in New York when a jet flying fast and low, according to eyewitnesses, plowed into an area near the Pentagon's helipad.

Authorities said the jet was American Airlines Flight 77 headed to Los Angeles from Washington Dulles International Airport, 25 miles from the Pentagon. All 64 listed aboard are presumed dead.

The jet flew near the White House and Pentagon before circling back toward its target, federal aviation sources said. Air traffic controllers became suspicious when they noticed the jet turning in the opposite direction from where it was supposed to be heading and alerted the White House.

The explosion from the crash carved a 100-foot-wide hole near an area where helicopters land and take off. The impact ripped through three of the five rings that make up the Pentagon's interior and exposed the five-story building's inner courtyard.

Army Lt. Col. Jerry Kitzhaber was on the telephone with his wife, who called to tell him about the World Trade Center crashes. "She said, 'Are you OK?' I said: 'This is the Pentagon. I should be OK here.' Then I hung up the phone and boom!" he said.

The Pentagon was soon consumed by flames and black smoke as the shrill sounds of a horn alerted workers to danger.

The attack, which some have likened to a modern day Pearl Harbor, left many wondering how the nerve center of the world's preeminent military could be so traumatically penetrated.

"I knew this was always called Ground Zero, but I thought it was inviolate," said defense contractor Marsha Reid, 29. "I had no idea I would be in the middle of a war zone."

Terrorism experts say virtually nothing could have been done to thwart such a diabolical attack. Pentagon officials said they don't have a defensive system in place to shoot down large aircraft.

Donald Hamilton, a retired State Department terrorism expert, noted that flights are continually passing near the Pentagon on their way into and out of nearby Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. "If you see a commercial airliner off course, who would give the final order to fire?" he asked.

Rumsfeld was in his office when the jet struck a newly renovated section of Army, Navy and Marine offices. The Defense secretary went outside the building for about 15 minutes and assisted victims of the attack after a hasty evacuation order was piped around the Pentagon's 17.5 miles of corridors. Later in the day, Rumsfeld and other senior military leaders huddled in the National Military Command Center inside the Pentagon.

Rumsfeld said the Pentagon would reopen today. It was unclear when the huge building would resume normal operations and what precautions the military might take to prevent future terrorist acts.

Military officials were in the midst of assembling a crisis-response team for the attacks in New York when their own building came under attack.

John Gentilini, an Army staff sergeant at the Pentagon, said it was "by the grace of God" that the attack came in an area that wasn't as heavily populated because of renovation. He and a colleague reacted instinctively after the crash. They loaded injured victims into a truck to race to Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, Va., and drove on the median part of the way.

Sen. John Warner, R-Va., spoke for many Americans when he declared at a Pentagon news conference: "This is, indeed, the most tragic hour in America's history."

U.S. forces worldwide were put on the highest state of alert. The Navy sent a group of ships on patrol along the East Coast of the United States.

While fear of terrorist attacks has become ingrained in most military officers in recent years, few could have imagined a Tom Clancy novel-like scene unfolding here.

A police officer near the scene said the jetliner sheared off a lamppost just before striking the building near ground level.

Army Lt. Col. Kenny Cox, who fought through black smoke to rescue survivors, said, "This is a cheap, dirty, senseless way to attack somebody."

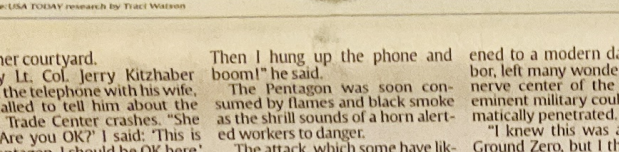
Contributing: Ed Foster-Simeon, Jonathan Weisman, Don Collins, Richard Benedetto, Tom Squitieri, Haya El Nasser and Cheryl Phillips

By Rob Curtis, Army Times

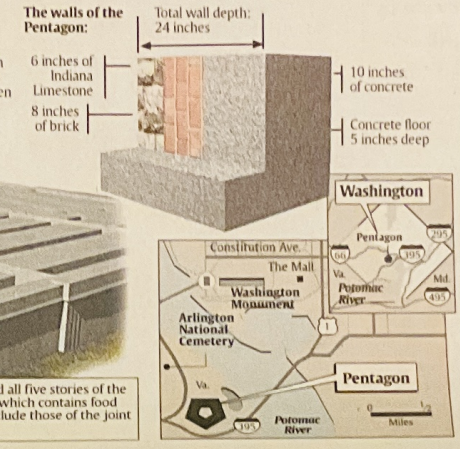
Engulfed: Firefighters and rescue workers try to extinguish the blaze ignited when an airliner crashed into the Pentagon on Tuesday morning.

Attack on the Pentagon

The Pentagon, the command center for the U.S. military, was struck by an American Airlines jetliner during rush hour Tuesday. The plane tore a giant gash near the Pentagon heliport, in the southwestern side of the building, which had recently been renovated. The building, one of the world's largest offices, houses 20,000 civilian and military employees.



The plane gouged a hole 100 feet wide through three of the five "rings" and all five stories of the Pentagon. Witnesses said that they could see the 5-acre central courtyard, which contains food vendors and a sitting area, through the gap. Offices in the damaged area include those of the joint staff and the Army's deputy chief of staff for personnel.



Source: USA TODAY research by Traci Watson

By Robert W. Ahrens, USA TODAY

Need for homeland defense now 'grim reality'

Lawmakers already demanding answers

By Bill Nichols
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — U.S. counterterrorism and emergency management specialists feared a day like Tuesday would come. Precautions were taken. Possible disaster scenarios were devised and practiced.

But in the wake of the terrorist attacks on New York City's World Trade Center and the Pentagon, government officials and security experts said nothing could have prepared the country for a day unlike any in U.S. history.

"You try to prepare for emergencies," said a shaken New York Gov. George Pataki, who was still trying to get news about friends who worked in the demolished World Trade Center towers. "But there's no way you can prepare for anything like this."

Not everyone, however, will agree with that. As the shock begins to fade from the multiple attacks on some of America's preeminent symbols of freedom and democracy, questions are going to be asked. The central one: How on Earth could this happen?

U.S. officials have made extensive efforts toward stopping potential terrorist attacks by Saudi-born terrorist Osama bin Laden. Just before the turn of the millennium in 1999, the Clinton administration believed it did stop bin Laden from staging a series of terrorist bombings within the USA.

The country's counterterrorism community constantly stages exercises of potential scenarios — terrorist bombings as well as chemical or biological warfare — to gauge U.S. readiness and be sure the United States has the resources to meet such threats.

Clearly, in this case, all the preparation didn't work. Already on Capitol Hill, some lawmakers were demanding answers as to how the vaunted U.S. intelligence system apparently could have had no clue that such a broad and intricately choreographed attack was in the works.

The State Department has had a worldwide terrorist warning since June 22, placing U.S. forces on alert. That alert was heightened last Friday to specifically include U.S. military installations in Japan and Korea. Security at U.S. ports of entry also has been strengthened since the attack on the USS Cole in Yemen last October.

Administration intelligence officials said they have had indications in recent weeks of an increased risk of an attack on U.S. installations overseas. But there are no indications that administration intelligence assets were on guard to try to counter an attack of this scope at home.

"Today, our government failed the American people," Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa., told CNN. "Our FBI and CIA are there to intercept raw data. . . . This is a failure that was caused by a lack of resources and a complacency that has overtaken America in the past few years."

The attack was so unexpected that a joint FBI/CIA anti-terrorist task force that specifically prepared for this type of disaster was on a training exercise in Monterey, Calif. As of late Tuesday, with airports closed around the country, the task force still hadn't found a way to return to Washington.

The major homeland-protection focus of the Bush administration has been on building a missile-defense shield to protect against nuclear missile attack.

Such a shield would have done nothing to stop what happened Tuesday. And once regular business resumes in Washington, the administration can expect a vastly different focus to the debate on how to defend U.S. territory.

"In one horrible moment, the need for homeland defense has gone from being a theoretical risk to a grim reality," said Tony Cordesman, a military and Middle East expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"Not one of us in government or counterterrorist experts outside government believed that anyone was capable of launching an attack with this degree of lethality and coordination," Cordesman said.

Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., who chairs the Foreign Relations Committee, warned in a speech Monday that the administration was de-emphasizing threats other than a missile attack at its peril.

"Even the Joint Chiefs say that a strategic nuclear attack is less likely than a regional conflict, a major theater war, terrorist attacks at home or abroad, or any number of other real issues," Biden said.

If the administration proceeds with building a missile-defense system, he said, the country will have "diverted all that money to address the least likely threat, while the real threat comes to this country in the hold of a ship, the belly of a plane, or smuggled into a city in the middle of the night in a vial in a backpack."

Members of a House defense appropriations subcommittee were about to meet to discuss moving $800 million from the administration's budget request for missile defense into counterterrorism efforts on Tuesday, when the attacks began. The meeting was canceled.

The attacks also will unquestionably prompt a review of security procedures at Washington institutions such as the White House, Pentagon and State Department.

Among the questions being asked here: How could the Pentagon, the center of the U.S. defense establishment, not be prepared to defend itself against an attack by an airplane?

Spokesman Rear Adm. Craig Quigley said the Pentagon has no anti-aircraft defense system that he is aware of.

The White House is assumed to have surface-to-air missiles available for protection. The problem, according to past and present government officials, is who makes a decision to fire a missile at an incoming airplane in the midst of downtown Washington.

Any proposed security upgrades could be controversial in a city celebrated for its openness and where millions of visitors come each year.

Secret Service officials already were roundly criticized for shutting down Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House during the Clinton administration because of fears of car or truck bomb attack. That level of precaution could look minor compared with steps that may be taken now.

Imagine this scene at the most venerated building in America: At approximately 9:40 a.m., according to press aide Rachel Sunbarger, a Secret Service guard burst into the White House lower press office, saying, "If I tell everybody to run, you run." Five minutes later, he returned, saying, "Get out now."

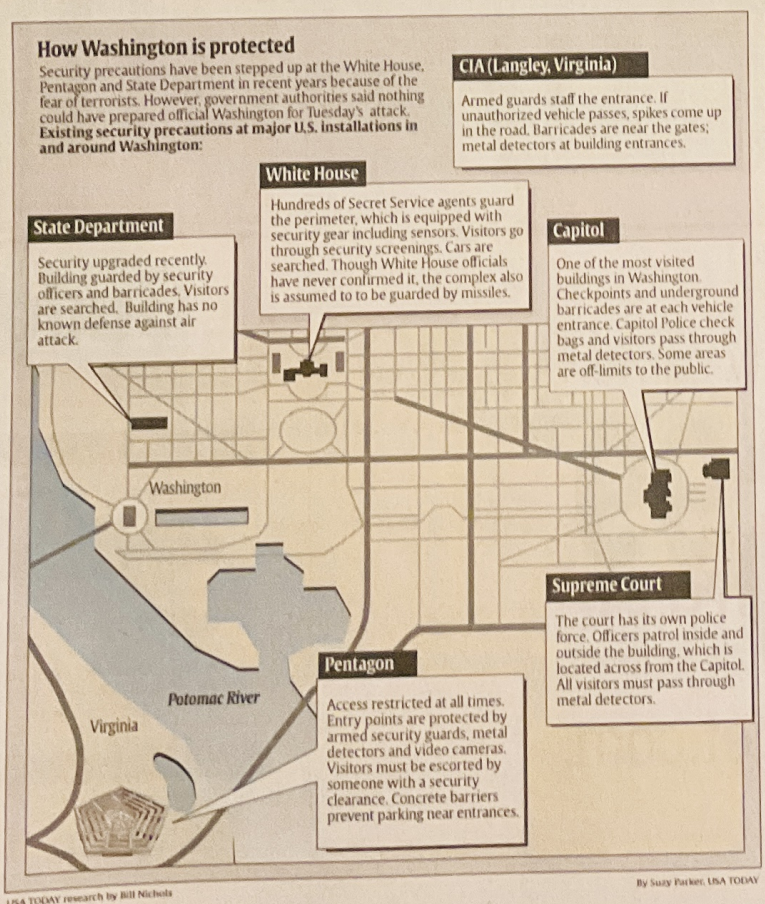
On a human level, Washington seemed to react to a day of catastrophe with grace and courage. On the city's subway, which was essentially the only way to get anywhere during the chaotic morning hours, passengers shared news bulletins and encouragement.

Throughout the city, calls and e-mails flooded in, all asking the same question: "Are you OK?"

The effect of this, however, both psychologically and in how the government decides to change the way the country protects itself, likely will transform America's way of life forever.

Said New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani: "I've never seen anything like this."

Contributing: Joan Biskupic, Jack Kelley, Jessica Lee, Barbara Slavin, Ed Foster-Simeon and Jonathan Weisman


How Washington is protected
Security precautions have been stepped up at the White House, Pentagon and State Department in recent years because of the fear of terrorists. However, government authorities said nothing could have prepared official Washington for Tuesday's attack.
Existing security precautions at major U.S. installations in and around Washington:
CIA (Langley, Virginia)
Armed guards staff the entrance. If unauthorized vehicle passes, spikes come up in the road. Barricades are near the gates; metal detectors at building entrances.
White House
Hundreds of Secret Service agents guard the perimeter, which is equipped with security gear including sensors. Visitors go through security screenings. Cars are searched. Though White House officials have never confirmed it, the complex also is assumed to to be guarded by missiles.
State Department
Security upgraded recently. Building guarded by security officers and barricades. Visitors are searched. Building has no known defense against air attack.
Capitol
One of the most visited buildings in Washington. Checkpoints and underground barricades are at each vehicle entrance. Capitol Police check bags and visitors pass through metal detectors. Some areas are off-limits to the public.
Washington
Supreme Court
The court has its own police force. Officers patrol inside and outside the building, which is located across from the Capitol. All visitors must pass through metal detectors.
Pentagon
Access restricted at all times. Entry points are protected by armed security guards, metal detectors and video cameras. Visitors must be escorted by someone with a security clearance. Concrete barriers prevent parking near entrances.
Potomac River
Virginia

USA TODAY research by Bill Nichols

By Suzy Parker, USA TODAY

Under attack
Reaction

By Jack Gruber, USA TODAY

Tears, prayers: Jennifer Hale attends a noontime service at San Francisco's Grace Cathedral.

Harsh reality of terrorism hits home

By Dennis Cauchon and Patrick O'Driscoll
USA TODAY

People will forever remember where they began the day of terror.

For Valerie McCary, it was in her Chrysler minivan, turning to an oldies station and hearing an improbable tale of one airliner, then another, crashing into the World Trade Center.

"I thought it was a spoof, another *War of the Worlds* gimmick," said McCary, 35, of Overland Park, Kan. After 30 seconds, she realized it was no joke. She pulled to the side of the road, rested her head on the steering wheel and cried.

She turned the van around and retrieved her 3-year-old son from preschool. "I needed a hug."

Across the nation, Tuesday, September 11, 2001, compressed a lifetime of emotions into a single day. The morning began with shock and disbelief at one, then two, then three plane crashes. It was followed by fear — an uncertainty over where terror would strike next and when it would stop.

Then came the sadness. It's a feeling that has not gone away and can be found in every part of the country — in clusters of people outside Starbucks coffee shops, which closed for the day; in the thousands of churches that held special services Tuesday evening; in American Red Cross centers where people lined up to give blood.

"I was in tears most of the day. Every time I think about it, I still want to cry," said Jeanette Forster, 74, of Moorpark, Calif. "It's just not understandable that people can be so inhumane."

As the day went on, sadness mixed with bewilderment or rage. The anger was directed mostly at Arabs and Muslims, even though it wasn't known who is responsible for the attacks.

"The Palestinians are partying in the street! I say, Bomb those idiots! Wipe them off the map! Enough of this!" said Robert Rollins, a hair stylist at the Richie Arpino Salon in the Buckhead section of Atlanta.

The attacks stirred many to call for national unity. The Georgia Legislature joined hands and sang "God Bless America" before adjourning early so legislators could be with their families. Flags appeared on homes. Adam Nilay, 20, a California college student, said the attack has made him consider enlisting in the military. "It wouldn't be some faraway vague cause. It would be right here," he said.

But, in many ways, the political response was less common than the personal response. In New York City, people made eye contact and cried openly. Phone circuits around the nation were overloaded as people called loved ones, even when home was far away from the terrorist attacks. Hundreds headed to hospitals to offer their help and their blood.

With the nation's planes grounded, strangers became friends in airports.

At Denver International Airport, Minneapolis banker Sean Faeth, en route to San Francisco aboard Northwest Flight 359 when the attack began, connected with three strangers, all Minnesotans, to rent a car at Denver International for a 14-hour drive home.

One was Michelle Heneman of Prior Lake, Minn., on a day trip to Denver for a business meeting. Just off the phone with her husband back home, she said her

Continued on 9A ▸

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Under attack
Reaction

U.S. Muslims hope they aren't blamed

By Rachel Zoll
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gahzi Khankan, a Muslim leader, said he has been here before, sitting in his home watching TV images of a building turned to dust — the federal building in Oklahoma City.

On Tuesday, after terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, he recalled assaults on his fellow Muslims after that 1995 bombing by disgruntled Army veteran Timothy McVeigh.

"Please do not start speculating and pointing the finger at us," said Khankan, a leader of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Muslims nationwide shut down their mosques and schools as Americans awaited word about who was responsible for the destruction. After the Oklahoma City bombing, more than 200 Arab- and Muslim-Americans were victimized, the council reported.

"We're suggesting that Muslims who are visually recognized as Muslims keep a low profile," council spokesman Ibrahim Hooper said. "Don't go out in public areas."

Hooper said a few callers to his office made threats. Several Muslims wearing traditional religious clothing reported being harassed in the Washington area, he said.

Security was tightened at mosques and schools across Florida. Two sheriff's deputies stopped cars a block from a private Islamic school in Tampa to protect nearly 300 children there.

"We pray that Muslims are not behind it," said Nahla Al-Arian, a teacher at the school. "The kids got so scared. There was one little girl who said, 'Is our school going to be knocked down?' "

The Islamic Association of Raleigh, N.C., and other groups representing Muslim- and Arab-Americans in that city, shut down a mosque and closed an Islamic school after receiving anonymous threats, said Wael Masri, an association member.

"There's a sense of fear, of panic," Masri said.

Arshad Majid, a member of the Islamic Center of Long Island, said Islam — like Christianity and Judaism — condemns suicide and hurting civilians.

"We're concerned that the actions of a small number of extremists is likely to paint with a very broad brush the large population of God-fearing, peace-loving Muslims in America," he said.

Close to 7 million Americans consider themselves Muslim in the USA, according to a study released in April by professor Ihsan Bagby of Shaw University in Raleigh.

Sayyid Syeed, secretary general of the Islamic Society of North America in Plainfield, Ind., said Muslims will join their fellow Americans in seeking punishment for the perpetrators.

"When we find who this is, we will react to that," Syeed said. "If that person or those people bear Islamic names, that means nothing. We are equally against them. We will repudiate them."

Several Muslims have been convicted in high-profile terrorist acts in the USA, such as the previous bombing of the World Trade Center and a shooting spree outside the CIA offices in Virginia, both in 1993. Too many Americans equate those individuals' acts with Islam, said Sheik T.J. Al-Awani, president of the School of Islamic and Social Sciences in Leesburg, Va.

"Muslims in this country would think this is unacceptable," Al-Awani said. "I can't accept anything against any American citizen. I'm Muslim. I'm also American. I love America."

Scared, too: Muslim children leave their Tampa school Tuesday afternoon, walking past Hillsborough County Sheriff's cars.
By Chris O'Meara, AP

Aftermath: City streets, skies quiet

Continued from 8A

children "were calling home, sobbing, because their mom was on a plane. I fly all the time. How do I make them feel OK again?"

Why drive home?

"I want to see my family," Faeth replied. "A 14-hour drive, "doesn't seem that bad right now."

The silent skies only added to the surreal atmosphere. Many people said they felt like they were in a movie.

The nation's most vulnerable and symbolic places closed Tuesday: baseball parks, Disneyland, monuments, the stock exchanges. The high-rise business districts of San Francisco and other cities were nearly deserted as workers went home. Even many shopping malls and schools closed, more in honor of the dead than out of fear or terrorism.

The Latino Grammy Awards, which had been moved from Miami to Los Angeles to avoid unrest related to anti-Castro protests, canceled the Tuesday night event. But in other ways the nation conducted its business as usual, perhaps a bit stunned. Workers continued to build highways, serve food and process insurance claims. Banks stayed open.

In an act of defiance, Washington state Gov. Gary Locke refused to shut down his state's Capitol. "The last thing we want to do is give the terrorists any satisfaction," he said.

As the day wore on, more people were asking why it happened. The victims who survived might be the most bewildered.

The Rev. Jeff Hammer, 68, one of several chaplains on duty at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City, said, "The victims I had talked to are very quiet, like a kid that had just gotten punished, like they had been sent to a closet."

"How do I explain this to my kids?," asked Ryan Badiak of Green Township, N.J., an information technology director at a health care organization. "My daughter was watching this on TV. She's 3. She thinks it's a movie."

Some believe it is an end of a period of innocence or naiveté. The terror and murder so common around the world came home to America on Tuesday.

"America joined the world today. We've been living in Disneyland so long," said Mike Knowles, 37, assistant plant manager of Pacific Digital Image in San Francisco.

Contributing: John Ritter, Martin Kasindorf and Patrick McMahon

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America's day of unbelievable horror

Series of events over 12 hours puts nation through gantlet of emotions

8:45 a.m.
American Airlines Flight 11, which had left Boston for Los Angeles shortly before 8 a.m., hits the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. There were 92 people aboard.

9:03 a.m.
United Airlines Flight 175, which had left Boston for Los Angeles at 8:14 a.m., slams into the south tower of the World Trade Center. There were 65 people aboard.

9:05 a.m.
President Bush is informed of attack as he visits schoolchildren in Florida.

9:31 a.m.
Bush issues a statement saying United States will hunt down attackers of World Trade Center.

9:40 a.m.
American Flight 77 from Dulles Airport near Washington, bound for Los Angeles, crashes into the Pentagon. It carried 64 people.

9:48 a.m.
The Capitol and West Wing of the White House are evacuated.

9:49 a.m.
The Federal Aviation Administration bans aircraft takeoffs across the country.

9:50 a.m.
South tower of the World Trade Center collapses.

9:58 a.m.
Emergency dispatcher in Pennsylvania receives a call from a passenger on United Flight 93, which was heading to San Francisco from Newark. The passenger says: "We are being hijacked, we are being hijacked!"

10 a.m.
United Flight 93 crashes about 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. It carried 45 people. The crash site was 85 miles northwest of Camp David.

10:29 a.m.
The north tower of the World Trade Center collapses.

11 a.m.
New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani calls for evacuation of lower Manhattan.

11:40 a.m.
Bush arrives at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., from Florida, delaying his return to Washington.

1:20 p.m.
Bush boards Air Force One and flies to Offutt Air Force Base, home to the U.S. Strategic Air Command, in Nebraska.

2:51 p.m.
Navy deploys missile destroyers and other equipment to New York and Washington.

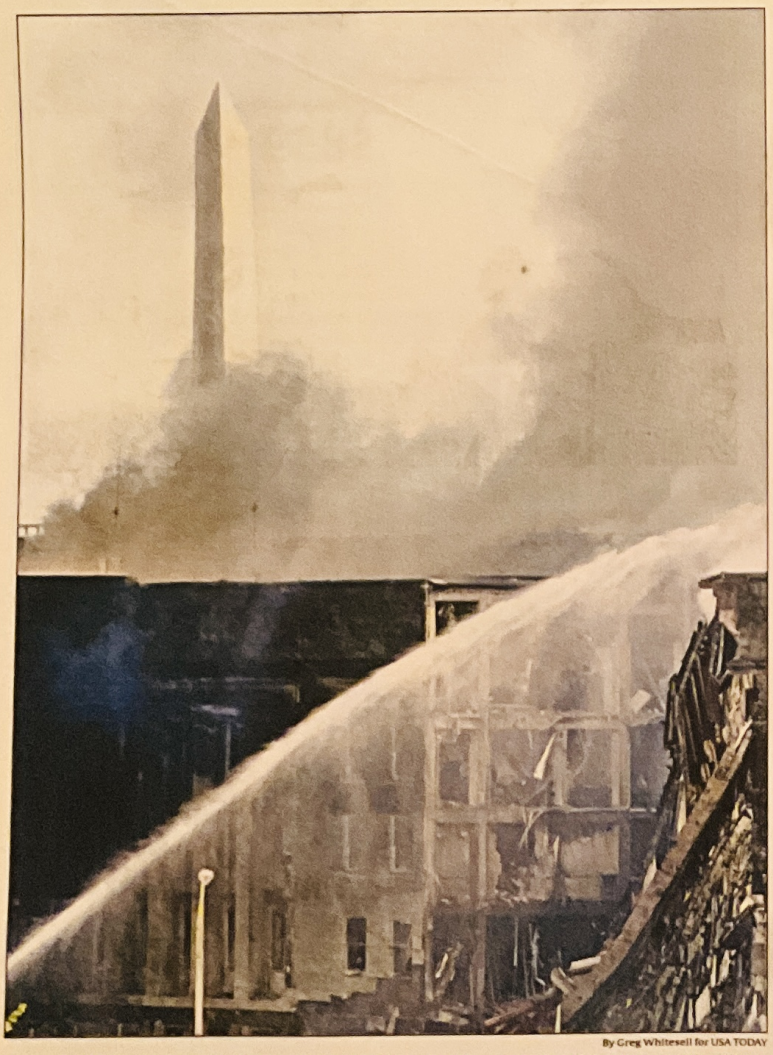
5:25 p.m.
Another building in the World Trade Center complex collapses.

7 p.m.
Bush arrives in Washington

8:30 p.m.
Bush addresses the nation.

By Ernesto Mora, AP

Living through a nightmare: Two women console each other as the World Trade Center burns and chaos reigns in Manhattan.



By Greg Whitesell for USA TODAY

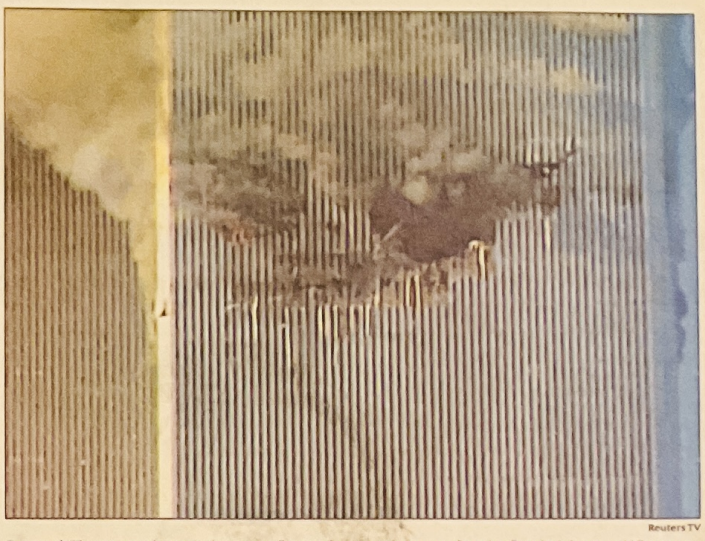
A smashed fortress: Fire crews direct a stream of water on the blasted exterior of the Pentagon. The U.S. military's headquarters sits in Arlington, Va., just across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

Panic in the streets: Pedestrians flee a giant plume of dust and debris as the south tower of the World Trade C

tack

By Amy Sancetta, AP

The twin 110-story buildings, where tens of thousands of people worked, collapsed after being struck by jetliners.

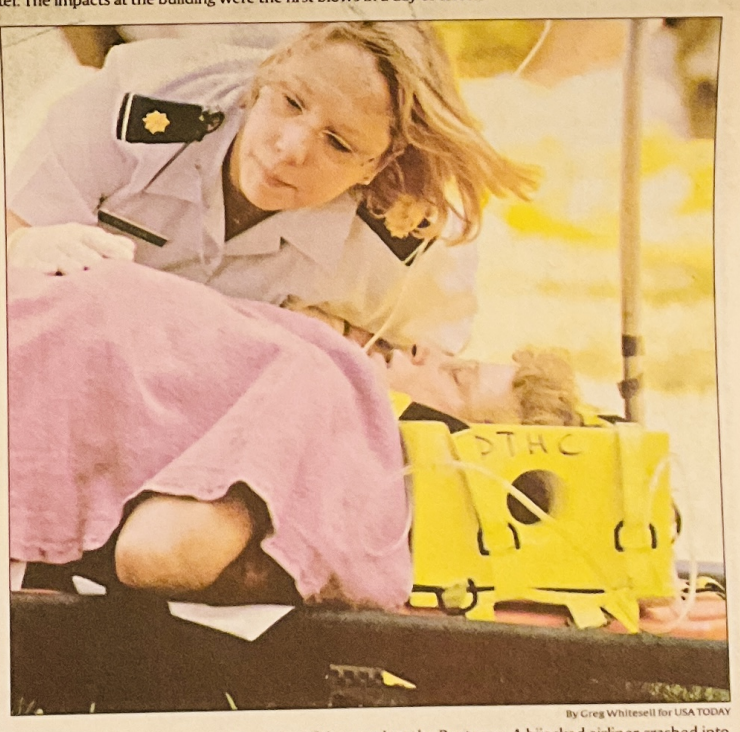


Reuters TV

Scarred: Flames eat through the upper floors of the north tower after the first jet's impact. Witnesses said people jumped from the burning buildings, plunging hundreds of feet.

By Robert Deutsch, USA TODAY

Grim sign: An emergency worker passes by a baby carriage abandoned outside the World Trade Center. The impacts at the building were the first blows in a day of terror.



By Greg Whitesell for USA TODAY

Triage: A military officer attends a victim of the attack at the Pentagon. A hijacked airliner crashed into the building less than hour after two other jets slammed into the World Trade Center.

By Robert Hanashiro, USA TODAY

Defiance: Richard Meade shows the flag Tuesday morning to drivers on Interstate 5 in Los Angeles. Meade said he was "doing this for my nephew," a Navy officer headed for duty in the Middle East. "I'm normally not a flag-waver, but in this case we need to come together as a nation."

Under attack
World reacts

The world is transfixed by America's tragedy

Some Palestinians hail the attacks, but most nations express shock, grief and fear

Germany's leader called it a "declaration of war against the civilized world." The European Central Bank and stock exchange in Frankfurt, Germany, and NATO headquarters in Brussels evacuated staff. Some countries announced they would put their militaries on alert and increase security around government facilities.

Tuesday's double attack on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington left many countries feeling vulnerable about their own security. Expressions of outrage and condolences over the expected large loss of life came from all corners of the world, even from nations not considered U.S. allies.

In the Middle East, however, where Palestinians have complained that Washington has supported Israel in the latest regional conflict, thousands came out to celebrate the breach of U.S. security.

In mainly Arab East Jerusalem and the West Bank cities of Nablus and Ramallah, Palestinian youths spilled onto the streets, waving flags and distributing sweets and knafe — a sweet Arab pastry eaten at joyous occasions. Passing cars honked their horns to mark their approval.

In Nablus, about 3,000 people took to the streets, firing weapons and chanting "God is great." Nawal Abdel Fatah, 48, threw sweets in the air, saying she was happy because "America is the head of the snake. America always stands by Israel in its war against us."

Arab leaders, however, including Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, denounced the attacks. "We condemn this terrorist attack," Arafat said. "This is a real tragedy. We are against the killing of innocent civilians." His condemnation was echoed by the leaders of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, and even by Cuba, Iran, Libya and extremist groups such as Islamic Jihad, which has carried out several recent suicide attacks in Israel.

And while some in northern Pakistan areas that border on Afghanistan also celebrated Tuesday's events in the USA, others rushed to call relatives and stuck to their TV sets to watch live pictures of the disaster scenes. The streets of Karachi were empty. U.S. officials believe that Saudi terrorist Osama bin Laden, who has taken refuge in Afghanistan, is likely responsible for Tuesday's attacks. He is also blamed for attacks on U.S. embassies in Africa and on the USS Cole in Yemen.

The opposition to the ruling Taliban government in Afghanistan said it carried out an air and rocket assault early today in the Afghan capital, Kabul. Early reports had indicated that the assault might have been U.S. retaliation.

French TV also interrupted its regular schedule to broadcast live reports on the attacks. Looking ashen and shaken, French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin appeared on TV and told reporters he had convened an emergency Cabinet meeting, reportedly to discuss increasing security precautions on the Continent.

Officials from the 15 European Union countries were in continual contact throughout the day, according to French Foreign Ministry spokesman Bernard Valero. "We are totally horrified by this terrifying tragedy," he said.

Mexican President Vicente Fox, back in Mexico after visiting the United States last week, expressed his condolences: "I've made known to President George Bush our heavy-heartedness and our solidarity in these difficult moments." Colombian President Andres Pastrana joined Fox in condemning the strikes.

As U.S. embassies, aided by their host countries, scrambled to increase protection for themselves and U.S. citizens, foreign governments looked more closely at their own security.

In the United Kingdom, all flights over and around London were canceled. Britain's police and armed forces were on heightened security, and government buildings had extra protection.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair offered his "deepest sympathy to the American people" and expressed his country's outrage at the attacks. "This mass terrorism is the new evil in our world today," he said. "It is perpetrated by fanatics who are utterly indifferent to the sanctity of human life, and we the democracies of this world are going to have to come together to fight it together and eradicate this evil completely from our world."

Fearing it might be the next target, Israel closed its airspace for 24 hours to all flights operated by foreign airlines.

Recent tensions between President Bush and some European leaders over the environment and the conflict in the Middle East seemed to vanish in the aftershock, said Dominique Moisi, deputy director of the Institute for International Affairs in Paris. "The trans-Atlantic rift seems negligible compared with what has happened. The first reaction is one of solidarity and joint vulnerability," he said. "We are as vulnerable as you are."

The strikes, meanwhile, left many Americans stranded as airlines around the world canceled U.S. flights and the United States closed its airspace.

The British Tourist Authority said this is the biggest season for American tourists, with more than 1 million visiting from July to September. Jo Leslie, a spokesman for the BTA, said there could be a quarter of a million Americans in Britain now.

Buddy Bailey, visiting from Manhattan, said he lived on King Street, 10 blocks from the World Trade Center. "I thought it was a joke, you know, a hoax," Bailey said. "I didn't believe it and I still can't."

Elsewhere, American tourists, business people and expatriates reacted with fear:

- Ted Miltonberger, who teaches at the American School of Paris, which caters to the city's large American community, said the attacks had shaken the student body. "We are going to need to do a lot of work in the morning calming students," he said.
- In Tokyo, Cooper Hipp, 32, and Jill Anderson, 34, who work for a Minneapolis software firm, checked out of the Hilton Tokyo after midnight. They said they were moving to a less conspicuous Japanese-owned hotel. "We didn't feel comfortable staying at an American-owned hotel," Hipp said.
- In Beijing, Jim Drake, who works in the Sears Tower in Chicago, said he felt an odd sense of security. "I never thought I'd say I felt safer in China than in the U.S., but I do right now," he said.

Heather Leach, a native of Baltimore who currently is living in Beijing, had a completely different feeling. "Often when I'm living in China, I feel disconnected from the U.S.," she said. "But today I feel connected, even in horror. I criticize the U.S. a lot, but today I'm thinking, 'What if America disappeared like the World Trade Center just did?' "

Contributing: Ellen Hale in London, Steve Friess in Beijing, Matthew Kalman in Jerusalem, Elliot Blair Smith in Mexico City, Vivienne Walt in Paris, Paul Wiseman in Tokyo and wire reports.

AP

Rejoicing: Children near East Jerusalem's Old City carry Palestinian flags and flash the victory sign Tuesday after hearing news of a terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, however, denounced Tuesday's attacks.

By Dima Korotayev, Reuters

Condolences: A Russian man places a lit candle outside the U.S. Embassy in Moscow on Tuesday as a sign of sympathy for Americans.

Iraq says it downed 2nd U.S. spy aircraft

Iraq said Tuesday that it had shot down an unmanned U.S. spy plane, the second in less than a month. A U.S. military spokesman said that a plane is missing and that its loss is being investigated. The United States and Britain have been patrolling no-fly zones over Iraq since the end of the Gulf War in 1991. The zones were set up to protect Shiite Muslim rebels in the south and Kurdish insurgents in the north from government forces.

U.S. airman denies rape on Okinawa

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Timothy Woodland appeared in a court on the Japanese island of Okinawa to face charges of rape. Woodland, 24, denied the allegations. He is accused of raping a 20-year-old Japanese woman June 29 in a parking lot outside a row of bars in a popular nightlife district. If convicted, he will face a minimum of 2 years in prison.

Mideast peace talks postponed

Palestinian officials said peace talks scheduled between Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres would not be held Tuesday evening as planned. They said the talks were postponed because of Israeli incursion of the West Bank town of Jenin and disagreement over the venue. Peres wants to hold the first of three rounds of talks at the Erez crossing near Gaza; Arafat insists the meeting take place in Cairo. Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath said the Peres-Arafat meeting has been postponed but not canceled.

Swiss nurse admits killing 27

In Switzerland's worst serial murder case, a nurse has confessed to killing 27 elderly patients over a period of 6 years. He told authorities he acted out of compassion. Swiss police have not named the 32-year-old man from Lucerne. Investigator Orvo Niemminen said the nurse gave his victims an overdose of tranquilizers or smothered them with a plastic bag.

Written by Smita P. Nordwall from reports

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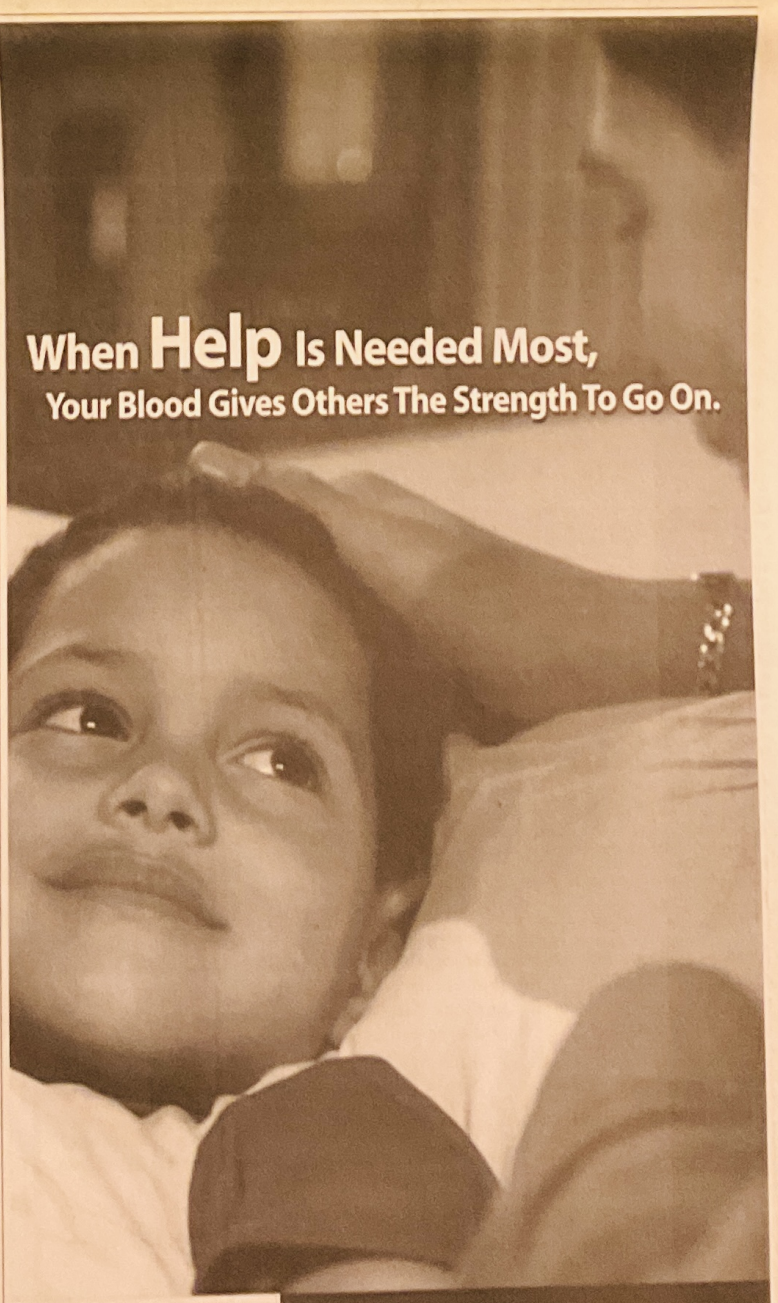

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Under attack
Meeting the challenge

Danger revises president's priorities for the day

By Judy Keen
USA TODAY

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. — The televised images were horrific and the shock and fear were palpable, even on President Bush's face, but the gravity of Tuesday's terrorist attacks was most vivid when Air Force One landed here.

The impregnable presidential 747, loaded with secret intelligence gear and armed Secret Service agents, had been flying for more than 2 hours. For most of that time, no one knew — or would tell reporters — where it would land. The jet also seemed to be flying in circles. When it touched down here, it felt like the United States was at war and the president's life was in danger.

Fighter jets hovered over both wings of Air Force One during its descent. Instantly, the aircraft was surrounded by Air Force personnel in combat gear: green fatigues, flak jackets, helmets, drawn M-16s.

As the reporters and cameramen waited for Bush to disembark, one airman shouted to another who was standing under the tail, "Hey, hey! Get to that wing tip! Move to that wing tip NOW!" Weapon drawn, the airman ran to his correct position under the right wing. Bush then walked into the headquarters of the Eighth Air Force, where he would try to calm the nation and promise to avenge the attacks.

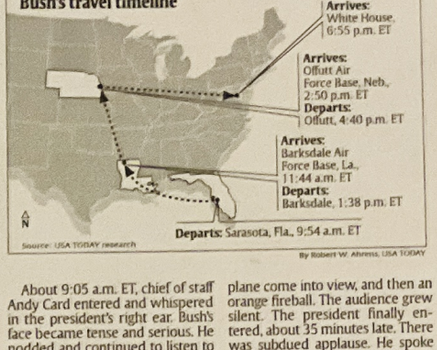
The president's day took him on an odyssey from Florida to Louisiana to Nebraska and finally, when it was deemed safe, back to the White House for his nationally televised address.

Bush's morning had begun with a predawn run in the humid warmth of Longboat Key, Fla. He was going to visit an elementary school. Then he planned to return to Washington for a barbecue with members of Congress at the White House.

Everything — including the president's priorities and the nation's sense of security — changed in the next few hours.

The first reports that something awful had happened came as Bush's motorcade made its way to Emma E. Booker Elementary School in Sarasota. A photographer overheard a radio transmission that press secretary Ari Fleischer would be needed on arrival to discuss "the crash." The speaker on the radio also said Bush had a call waiting at the school from national security adviser Condoleezza Rice.

The reporters were taken into a classroom and learned that a plane had hit one of the World Trade Center towers. In the classroom, 16 second-graders in Sandra Kay Daniels' class were sitting in two rows of chairs. Bush walked in smiling and relaxed.


Bush's travel timeline
Arrives: White House, 6:55 p.m. ET
Arrives: Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., 2:50 p.m. ET
Departs: Offutt, 4:40 p.m. ET
Arrives: Barksdale Air Force Base, La., 11:44 a.m. ET
Departs: Barksdale, 1:38 p.m. ET
Departs: Sarasota, Fla., 9:54 a.m. ET
N
Source: USA TODAY research
By Robert W. Ahrens, USA TODAY

About 9:05 a.m. ET, chief of staff Andy Card entered and whispered in the president's right ear. Bush's face became tense and serious. He nodded and continued to listen to the class read. When it was over, he said, "Really good. These must be sixth-graders!"

Meanwhile, in the room where Bush was scheduled to give a short speech, about 200 people waited under hot lights set up for the TV cameras. Word began to spread among reporters that a jet had crashed into the World Trade Center. Through a doorway, reporters watched live TV footage from New York. As smoke billowed from the first tower, they saw a second plane come into view, and then an orange fireball. The audience grew silent. The president finally entered, about 35 minutes late. There was subdued applause. He spoke briefly, saying, "This is a difficult time for America."

As soon as the president finished, his motorcade raced to Sarasota Bradenton International Airport. The dozen reporters and photographers traveling with him were told to put down their equipment for a second security search, even though their bags had been searched at the school.

Even some White House staffers were ordered to drop their gear for a security check.

Air Force One took off at 9:54 a.m. ET. On board, the mood was tense. TVs were tuned to local news broadcasts, providing wobbly scenes from New York. No one, including White House aides, the flight crew and Secret Service agents, would say where the jet was headed. Secret Service agents went to the press cabin to watch TV. One said sadly that the New York field office of the Service, with some 200 agents, was in the World Trade Center.

At 10:55 a.m. ET, Air Force One soared upward. Reporters were told that the jet was flying at an unusually high 40,000 feet, that military escort aircraft were nearby and that the jet was headed west.

At 11:29 a.m. ET, reporters spotted a fighter jet off Air Force One's right wing. Another appeared off the left wing.

An official instructed reporters not to turn on their cellphones when the jet landed because the signals might allow someone to discern the president's location.

Bush called Vice President Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld from Air Force One and asked them to call congressional leaders. He also spoke with Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., and New York Gov. George Pataki. He told Pataki, "I know your heart is broken." Before landing in Louisiana, Bush also called his wife, Laura.

Air Force One landed at Barksdale Air Force Base at 11:45 a.m. ET. Seconds earlier, everyone heard a CBS report that casualties in New York City were "in the thousands."

The president got into a blue Dodge Caravan, and reporters and White House aides boarded a bus. Leading the small motorcade was a green Humvee; an airman was visible in its gun turret.

Local Air Force personnel told reporters that local TV news had reported that Air Force One had landed at Barksdale. White House staffers rescinded their instruction that reporters could say only that Bush was at "an unidentified location in the United States."

At 12:36 p.m. ET, Bush entered, looking grim. The president's eyes were red-rimmed.

"Freedom itself was attacked this morning by a faceless coward," he began.

Just five journalists went on with Bush to the headquarters of the Strategic Air Command near Omaha. That facility controls the U.S. long-range nuclear arsenal.

After a briefing in an underground bunker and a conference call with his national security team, Bush returned to Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington.

As Air Force One made its approach, the smoke from the burning Pentagon was visible to the north.

Crisis presents defining moment for Bush

History will remember U.S. response

By Susan Page
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — With all the comparisons made to Pearl Harbor on the terrible day of terrorism Tuesday, a defining question confronts President Bush: Will he rise to the crisis now as Franklin D. Roosevelt did then?

Or will he seem overwhelmed, like President Carter during the Iranian hostage crisis?

Less than 8 months into his presidency, Bush must take charge of the response to the bloodiest attack on U.S. soil in history. What he does will stamp his presidency, affect his re-election prospects and shape the lessons the nation draws from the tragedy.

"Without a shadow of a doubt, it's not just the single most important challenge Bush will face for the remainder of his term," says presidential historian Douglas Brinkley at the University of New Orleans. "These next few days will be the defining moment in how we remember him."

The tragedy instantly transformed Washington's agenda. The dispute over whether to tap the Social Security trust fund almost certainly will be replaced by a debate over how to combat terrorism. Demands for school accountability may well be overshadowed by concerns over school security.

Bush is also dealing with an economy that suddenly seems even more frail than expected. "To confront both an economic crisis and a terrorist crisis really represents a double challenge," says Leon Panetta, who was President Clinton's chief of staff. "And this to a president who probably is still trying to get his grounding in terms of the challenges of that office."

Political scientists, presidential historians and White House veterans say Bush must show not only forceful leadership but also an ability to comfort a nation in grief, to act as both commander in chief and national chaplain.

Pool photo by Doug Mills

New territory: President Bush will be tested by a domestic crisis unlike any president before him.

But some analysts, while saying there surely were undisclosed security threats greater than those so horribly on display, criticized the symbolism and message of vulnerability sent by Bush's actions in the first hours after the attacks.

They question why he didn't offer more than perfunctory reassurance to the nation from Sarasota, Fla., where he was visiting a school when the attacks occurred. They note that presidents traditionally stay at the White House or return there at times of crisis, from Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War to John Kennedy during the Cuban missile crisis to Lyndon Johnson after Kennedy's assassination. Not since the British burned the White House in 1814 has a president been persuaded by security concerns to avoid the capital. "President Bush made an initial mistake," says historian Robert Dallek of Boston University. "The president's place is back in Washington."

But Bush traveled first to Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, where he read a brief statement to reporters, then to an underground bunker at the U.S. Strategic Command headquarters in Omaha. At an afternoon briefing for reporters in Washington, presidential counselor Karen Hughes left without responding to shouted questions about why he hadn't returned.

Bush flew back to Washington and arrived around 7:30 p.m. He addressed the nation about 12 hours after the attacks, promising to "find those responsible and bring them to justice."

The tests in the next few days aren't the kind at which Bush has excelled. He lacked foreign policy experience before taking office; responding to what is assumed to be international terrorism requires particular skill. In a USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll on Tuesday night, 45% of those surveyed said they were very confident in Bush's ability to handle the crisis, 33% somewhat confident, 11% not too confident and 7% not confident at all.

"At Pearl Harbor, we had a clear-cut enemy," says James Lindsay, who was a National Security Council aide in the Clinton administration. "In this case, we keep hearing the phrase, 'War has been declared on the United States.' The question is, by whom? And the problem is going to be, how do you respond?"

What's more, Bush hasn't yet seemed fully at ease in using the presidential bully pulpit.

FDR's ranking as one of the greatest presidents was sealed by his eloquent speech and commanding response to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Carter's standing was undercut and his chances for a second term undermined by the hostage crisis.

When Bush speaks, "are you going to see a man who is speaking for the nation?" Lindsay asks. "Or are you going to see a man in a suit that's two sizes too big?"

Bush's response will help shape the nation's reaction.

"This is likely to be a major psychological turning point for Americans and how they view the world. The question is: What meaning will Americans take away from it? Are they going to witness this carnage and commit themselves to being involved abroad and foiling these terrorists? Or are Americans likely to say, 'The outside world is a boiling cauldron of ethnic hatreds, and let's turn inward,' Lindsay says. "A lot will depend on what George Bush does."

In the early days, Americans almost certainly will unite behind the president, as they traditionally do after traumatic national events.

"Initially, there's a rally effect — rally around the president, rally around the government," Dallek says. "But down the pike a bit, there's going to be painful recriminations over how the Pentagon could be struck that way," and whether enough attention was paid to airport and other security. Fair or not, he says, "Bush is the responsible official."

USA's resolve 'being tested'

The text of President Bush's remarks Tuesday evening from the Oval Office:

Good evening.

Today, our fellow citizens, our way of life, our very freedom came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts. The victims were in airplanes or in their offices. Secretaries, business men and women, military and federal workers. Moms and dads. Friends and neighbors.

Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror.

The pictures of airplanes flying into buildings, fires burning, huge structures collapsing, have filled us with disbelief, terrible sadness and a quiet, unyielding anger.

These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat. But they have failed. Our country is strong. A great people has been moved to defend a great nation.

Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve.

America was targeted for attack because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world.

And no one will keep that light from shining.

Today, our nation saw evil, the very worst of human nature, and we responded with the best of America, with the daring of our rescue workers, with the caring for strangers and neighbors who came to give blood and help in any way they could.

Immediately following the first attack, I implemented our government's emergency response plans. Our military is powerful, and it's prepared. Our emergency teams are working in New York City and Washington, D.C., to help with local rescue efforts.

Our first priority is to get help to those who have been injured and to take every precaution to protect our citizens at home and around the world from further attacks.

The functions of our government continue without interruption. Federal agencies in Washington which had to be evacuated today are reopening for essential personnel tonight and will be open for business tomorrow.

Our financial institutions remain strong, and the American economy will be open for business as well.

The search is underway for those who are behind these evil acts.

I've directed the full resources for our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and bring them to justice. We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them.

I appreciate so very much the members of Congress who have joined me in strongly condemning these attacks. And on behalf of the American people, I thank the many world leaders who have called to offer their condolences and assistance.

America and our friends and allies join with all those who want peace and security in the world and we stand together to win the war against terrorism.

Tonight I ask for your prayers for all those who grieve, for the children whose worlds have been shattered, for all whose sense of safety and security has been threatened. And I pray they will be comforted by a power greater than any of us spoken through the ages in Psalm 23: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil for you are with me."

This is a day when all Americans from every walk of life unite in our resolve for justice and peace. America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this time.

None of us will ever forget this day, yet we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world.

Thank you. Good night and God bless America.

U.S. symbols, agencies abruptly shut down

By Laurence McQuillan
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Sirens wailed and frightened workers fled office buildings Tuesday as the fear of more terrorist attacks shut down the nation's capital.

The treasured symbols of the nation, including the White House and the Capitol, were evacuated. Many foreign embassies closed their doors. The few that remained open did so behind tight security.

Authorities clamped a lid of secrecy on measures taken to safeguard the nation's leaders. Top members of Congress, along with Chief Justice William Rehnquist, were whisked away in case they were targets. Helicopters ferried House Speaker Dennis Hastert and Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle to underground bunkers outside Washington. First lady Laura Bush was taken to a secret spot.

Vice President Cheney and national security adviser Condoleezza Rice oversaw emergency plans to keep the government operating from a basement bunker at the White House. Black-uniformed Secret Service agents with high-powered weapons patrolled the White House grounds. Fighter jets circled over the city. The Federal Emergency Management Agency opened an operations center to deal with the chaos. Mayor Anthony Williams declared a state of emergency.

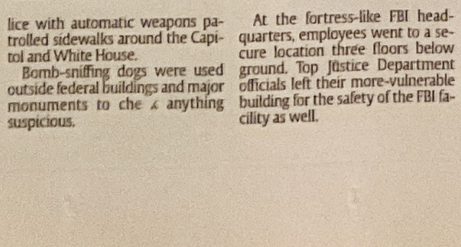
The reality of what happened, combined with a torrent of rumors about other devastation, frayed the nerves of a city accustomed to crisis. Federal agencies shut down. Workers in private offices were told to go home. The abrupt closings created a late-morning gridlock of drivers trying to flee.

"I can't help but regret we're shutting down the entire town and national air travel," said Sen. Fred Thompson, R-Tenn.

"That's what they want: to cause panic."

Early in the day, the roar of low-flying fighter jets fed a war-zone atmosphere. Police sharpshooters stood on top of buildings, while police with automatic weapons patrolled sidewalks around the Capitol and White House.

Bomb-sniffing dogs were used outside federal buildings and major monuments to check anything suspicious.


By Mark Faram, Army Times

Outside the Pentagon: A priest, right, prays Tuesday as emergency workers help the wounded. About 20,000 employees were evacuated.

At the fortress-like FBI headquarters, employees went to a secure location three floors below ground. Top Justice Department officials left their more-vulnerable building for the safety of the FBI facility as well.

The evacuation of the Capitol took place swiftly and efficiently with an air of stunned calm. There was no plan in place for members of Congress. Some were spotted standing outside office buildings trying to decide whether to head for their cars, and gridlock, or gather at the Capitol Police headquarters for updates on the situation.

A torrent of people rushed from office buildings throughout the capital, eager to leave a city under siege. Cellphone networks were overloaded. School districts in the area closed early. Subway trains moving to the suburbs were jammed. On the National Mall, crowds gathered to stare at the smoke billowing up over the Pentagon on the horizon.

Bomb squads destroyed at least one suspicious package a few blocks from the White House, and rumors of more explosions flew through the crowds, though they proved to be false.

The Federal Reserve, seeking to provide assurances that the nation's banking system would be protected , said it stood ready to provide additional money to banks if needed. The shock of the attacks weighed heavily on private citizens as well.

Judy Rice, a tourist from Clearfield, Utah, visiting Washington with her 13-year-old daughter Arianna, was trembling and on the verge of tears as she stood not far from the Pentagon.

"I just don't know where to go," Rice said. "All I want is to get away from the monuments."

Julie Hacker, 23, of Buenos Aires, Argentina, was visiting with her mother and grandmother. She was waiting in line at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum when she heard a boom and saw smoke rising from the Pentagon.

"We came here for the quiet and calm," Hacker said. "We have relatives in Israel. They told us to come to the U.S. to be calm."

Contributing: William M. Welch, Kathy Kiely, Jessica Lee, Scott Hillkirk, George Hager, Joan Biskupic, Kevin Johnson and Jim Cox

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—Allen H. Neuharth, Founder, Sept. 15, 1982

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By Diane Bondareff, AP

Tremendous loss: A medical worker comforts a distraught woman Tuesday after the World Trade Center bombing in New York.

A day that changes America's view of terror

Somewhere today in the dens of terrorists, there is glee. Isolated and imprisoned by their preconceptions, the architects of the horrors inflicted on this nation Tuesday will see the United States as a nation gripped by fear, cowering at the discovery of newfound vulnerability and eager to withdraw from the world's tempests.

To be sure, the sights streaming into living rooms were terrifying. Crashed planes. Collapsing office towers. A burning Pentagon. Potentially thousands dead. Never before — even in war — have innocent American civilians or the heart of the nation's military machine been so assaulted.

But fear is not new to the nation, nor has controlling it proved difficult, no matter the scale. Instead, shock and tears dominated TV screens as the scale of the horror unfolded — a picture of an America mourning for countrymen slaughtered by zealots of unknown stripe. When the mourning ends, the tears will turn swiftly to anger, and how that anger is managed may define the way America lives for years to come.

There will of course be tightened security and pointed questions. Why was our intelligence so sorely lacking? Why was an air-safety system long familiar with terror still so vulnerable?

But those responses are too familiar to match the scale of Tuesday's violence. The use of airliners as terrorist weapons to attack the World Trade Center and Pentagon — and the crash of a fourth plane in Pennsylvania after it was apparently hijacked — were not just the acts of a few lunatics with bombs. They were a coordinated assault by a sophisticated enemy directed against the people of the United States. They may, in fact, turn out to have caused the bloodiest day in American history since the Civil War.

This should fundamentally alter the way the U.S. thinks about the response. The rule of thumb has always been that any response must be "proportionate," so as to prevent the world's rage from turning against us rather than on the terrorists. By that measure the gloves are off, given the scale and toll of this havoc.

If the attackers were foreign, as certainly seems likely, they committed an act of war, with all that implies. It would be foolish to assume that they wouldn't attack again, and as massive as Tuesday's damage was, an age of proliferating biological, chemical and nuclear weapons harbors worse.

The goal must be to identify the threat and remove it with single-minded focus — not merely terrorists but their sponsors and protectors as well, as President Bush vowed in addressing the nation Tuesday night.

That certainly is an objective without a quick, risk-free solution, but it must begin with unequivocal identification of the enemy. After Osama bin Laden's terrorist organization bombed two U.S. embassies in 1998, a retaliatory missile attack on a supposed chemical-weapons plant in Sudan, for example, backfired when the link to the alleged embassy-bombers turned out to be tenuous.

Ideally, any response also would be more than military: bringing allies and other major nations into a global alliance to wage war against terrorism. Every nation, even those with which the United States has major differences, must know today that its cities, its landmarks, its centers of commerce and government are just as vulnerable as ours.

Little in this is satisfying, and much is dangerous. But living in fear is no option at all.

When the twin towers of the Trade Center crumpled to the ground like so much dust, at a cost of countless lives, something less tangible was lost as well — a uniquely American sense of freedom and security.

That is a loss the nation can endure only temporarily, lest it hand the terrorists the victory they seek and diminish the essence of who we are.

Deadliest terrorism

Though the number of casualties is not yet known, Tuesday's terrorist attacks are expected to rank as the deadliest in history. Other deadly attacks:

- December 1996: Separatist militants bomb a train in Assam, India; 300 deaths.
- October 1983: Shiite suicide bombers destroy U.S. Marine and French paratroopers barracks in Beirut; 299 deaths.
- December 1988: Terrorists linked to Libya bomb a Pan Am 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing passengers and residents of the town; 270 deaths.
- August 1998: Car bombs built by Osama bin Laden's terrorist network explode outside U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania; 244 deaths.
- September 1999: Days apart, bombs set by Chechen rebels destroy two apartment buildings in Moscow; 212 deaths.
- April 1995: Former U.S. soldier Timothy McVeigh bombs Oklahoma City federal building; 168 deaths.

Air security fails

In a few stark moments Tuesday, questions raised for years about the vulnerability of the nation's air-security system took on deadly urgency. Minutes apart, hijackers breached security on four huge passenger jets departing three major American airports. With good reason, America's confidence in safe skies was shattered.

While investigators scramble to determine precisely how terrorists slipped through the X-ray equipment, screeners and ID checks at airports in Boston, Washington and Newark, questions are also being raised about whether failures in the airport security system overseen by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the industry contributed to the disaster. The most damning charge is that federal officials received "credible evidence" a month ago of a planned terrorist strike at U.S. airports.

That adds to the obvious security gaps that exist 12 years after the terrorist bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. Among the most serious problems:

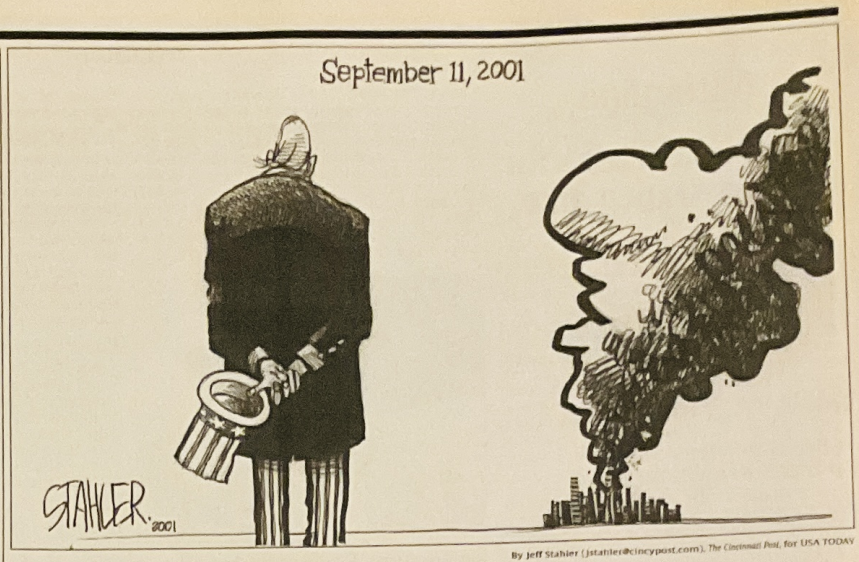
- During two brief test periods in recent years, four passengers passed through security and onto planes with loaded guns, only to be caught on connecting flights, Congress' General Accounting Office (GAO) found. Twice, simulated explosive devices passed through checkpoints and onto planes.
- Tests run by government watchdogs show it is easy to penetrate airport security. Inspectors were able to breach secure areas at eight airports; 12 times they were seated on planes ready for departure.
- The X-ray screeners who make up the front line of airport security are often paid less than workers at the airports' fast-food eateries, resulting in high turnover and a disgruntled workforce.
- While passengers must present photo identification when they pick up boarding passes, there is nothing to prevent them from handing the pass off to someone else. Some pilots have long sought an ID check when passengers actually board.

Tuesday's tragedy also raised questions about security once a plane is in the air. How long did air traffic controllers know the planes were seriously off course? Did they notify law enforcement authorities?

After any dangerous breach comes recrimination and promises of change. When several passengers stormed cockpits last year, there were calls for reinforced cockpit doors. But as memories of the attacks faded, so did any chance for change. The excuses? Too expensive or too cumbersome.

Certainly, increased security will be expensive and time-consuming. Americans could lose some of the cheap, fast service they demand, and perhaps they will balk. But now they will have no choice.

No system can prevent all breaches, but if deterrence is the best defense, then respect for the system's ability to catch potential troublemakers is its most important asset. It will take many years to repair the damage done Tuesday. The FAA must start today.



By Jeff Stahler (jstahler@cincypost.com), The Cincinnati Post, for USA TODAY

Letters

Attacks remind: 'It could have been us'

I work on the 59th floor of the tallest building in New England. From time to time, my mind considers the possibility of what I would do if the building were attacked by terrorists. I can assure anyone, nothing pleasant goes through my mind. There's nowhere to run or hide in a building that's made predominately of glass.

When I heard the details of the attacks on the World Trade Center towers, I practically vomited. I couldn't help but think: It could have been us.

Like everyone else in the United States, I'm angry, confused and in a state of shock. How do we begin to process what happened in New York and in Washington, D.C., where the Pentagon was attacked? Both areas are under a cloud of debris, and countless numbers of innocent people are dead.

May God rest their souls.

Do the individuals who caused these acts feel victorious or encouraged? I can't imagine what must be going through their minds. What possible differences could there be between their philosophy and ours that would cause them to do these horrible deeds?

If the terrorists think they've broken our resolve to fight against and prevent such acts of injustice toward our nation, they're wrong. If anything, it will strengthen our resolve to do so.

The land of the free and brave will remain so, and we will not be deterred from fighting for and upholding the principles of democracy.

Patrick A. Downes
Boston, Mass.

Don't return hatred

Before we think about retaliation and counting the bodies, we need to think about life, love and those close to us. In the numbing aftermath of the attacks on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon, we need to appreciate what's most important: our love for one another.

We hate the people who did this, and we want to torture them for what they've done. But that is wrong. Similar feelings of hatred resulted in these devastating attacks.

When does the circle of violence stop? We react. Terrorists then respond to our reaction, and we react again. Rather than hatred, this situation should be about change — a new direction that promotes love for your fellow man.

Years from now we'll remember where we were when this occurred. How many people immediately thought of their loved ones? How many people turned immediately to prayer for those who were hurt? Did we feel the pain of the people standing beside us as they heard the news, or did our hearts fill with hatred and revenge?

Yes, we have to react. We need to find the answer as to why this happened, but the fact that it happened shouldn't surprise us. We live in a time and place where violence is celebrated, anticipated and expected. We revel in the death penalty that is applied discriminatively, and we toss threats around as if they were a ball.

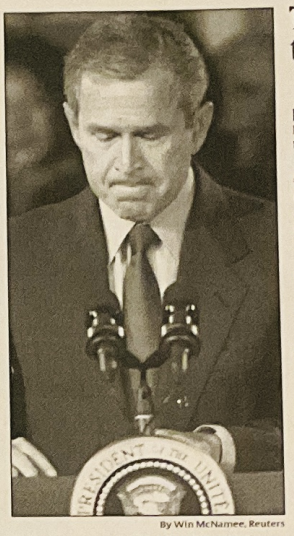
Before we draw the lines in the sand and internalize the horror, we need to find the love in our hearts.

As a nation, let's say a prayer and bond together to get through this.

Clifford J. Fazzolari
Blasdell, N.Y.

By Robert Deutsch, USA TODAY

Destroyed: The World Trade Center in New York after terrorist attack.



By Win McNamee, Reuters

Sobering events: President Bush addresses the nation from a school he was visiting in Sarasota, Fla., on Tuesday. "Terrorism against this nation will not stand," he said.

USA must pull together

The devastation of Tuesday's assault on the Pentagon in Washington and the World Trade Center towers in New York rivals the Pearl Harbor attack on Dec. 7, 1941. When civilian and military-personnel casualties are added, I believe it will be more devastating in number.

We all know how Pearl Harbor brought the United States to attention in its responsibility to arm and protect itself. It certainly points out that we must unite now to preserve the democracy from outside interests. We have been lax and complacent.

This once-innocent country has been hit by terrorists. There now will be a new suspicion and search for those who are responsible. A strong military is once again the buffer between our country and those who want to strike us.

Our position in the world must be preserved — and this means all Americans must pull together.

Bill Stanley
Indian Harbor Beach, Fla.

Attacks call for action

The United States was attacked by an enemy entity, just as surely as the country was attacked by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor in 1941.

The response should be the same: War should be declared against the perpetrators and any personnel or organizations that assisted the terrorists.

This war should be officially declared by Congress and, if necessary, any prevention of personal targeting of enemy leaders should be taken off the lawbooks. The president should be free to punish, defeat and, if necessary, annihilate those involved. Every U.S. resource — military, financial, intelligence, diplomatic or otherwise — should be utilized immediately. If this requires moving resources from other areas, including the Balkans or Korea, we should do it.

If the president does not take decisive action, given full backing, it should be clear that the days of his political career are numbered.

Jerry L. Bennett
Merritt Island, Fla.

Prepare for USA's wrath

To those responsible for the attacks, enjoy your success while you can.

You may think you have won a great victory. However, you've united this country in a manner that has not been possible since the attack on Pearl Harbor.

This country and its people will not rest until everyone responsible has been brought to justice or killed.

It may take weeks, months or even years. But everyone responsible will be brought to justice.

You have awakened the sleeping giant. Prepare to face its wrath.

David J. Densmore
Hereford, Ariz.

Terrorists acts point to Yasser Arafat

Sept. 11, 2001 is another day that will prove to be indelibly etched on the minds of all Americans. This would seem to be another Pearl Harbor for America.

Thousands of West Bank Palestinians celebrated Tuesday's terror attacks on the United States, chanting "God is great" and distributing candy to passers-by, even as their leader, Yasser Arafat, said he was horrified.

I have no doubt in my mind that Arafat's statement was disingenuous. If he was not involved, I believe some of his associates were.

Once again, we see terrorism. And we see in terrorists people who don't believe in democracy, people who feel that with the destruction of buildings, with the murder of people, they can somehow achieve a political purpose. They can destroy buildings, they can kill people, and we will be saddened by this tragedy — but the terrorists will never be allowed to kill the spirit of democracy.

You can be assured that America will deal with this tragedy in a way that brings those responsible to justice.

Mark P Cernak Sr.
Chesapeake, Va.

Tragedy for Muslims, too

I awoke early in the morning with a strange feeling that something was wrong. A few hours later I was shocked and devastated to hear about the terrorist attacks.

First and foremost, I keep thinking of all of the people, friends and families who lost their loved ones. Theirs is the real tragedy.

Meanwhile, among all of the terror and fear, we need to ensure the safety of all American citizens.

There are millions of Muslims living in America, for whom this is a tragedy as terrible as for the Jews, Christians, Buddhists and Hindus living in America. I am sure there were many Muslims killed in the tragic events of Tuesday.

I am also sure that many Muslims helped in the aftermath with the rescue effort as well as with the medical attention given to the victims.

Amina Rathur
Newark, Calif.

Israel can relate to USA's horror

Tragically, we Americans are experiencing firsthand the horror of terrorist attacks.

I am writing this at 10:30 a.m. ET as everyone across the nation is waiting, praying and wondering with dread how many people have been murdered, how many people have been terribly maimed for life.

Israelis surely understand the shock and profound pain such terrorist attacks create. Now, tragically, Americans have a much better understanding of what the Israelis have been going through and continue to face every day.

President Bush has just given his first brief remarks about this national catastrophe, and he said that America would "hunt down those responsible."

Reporters are not hesitating to use the word "terrorists" to describe those responsible for these heinous attacks against our people and our national symbols. It seems hypocritical to me that when terrorists hit Israel, some with the media refer to the perpetrators as Palestinian militants, rather than terrorists.

Now that we ourselves feel the pain and shock of terrorist attacks in our own country, let us not shy away from asking those pundits and editors who have excoriated Israel for its targeted killing of terrorists whether they have changed their minds.

Do they still feel it is wrong to kill terrorists who are being harbored in countries that refuse to extradite them?

Do they still feel it is wrong to preemptively kill terrorists who are planning to carry out an attack?

I extend my deepest sympathies to the many victims and their families, and I pray that our government leaders respond to this massive attack with wisdom and strength.

Tamara Sofair-Fisch
West Orange, N.J.

To comment . . .

We welcome your comments on editorials, columns, other topics in USA TODAY or any subjects important to you. Only letters that include name, address and day and evening phone numbers, and that are verified by USA TODAY, can be considered for publication. Letters to the editor of 250 or fewer words have the best chance of being published. Letters are edited for length, accuracy and clarity. Send letters by e-mail to editor@usatoday.com; fax to 703-247-3108; or mail to 1000 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22229. Letters to the editor and articles submitted to USA TODAY may be published or distributed in print, electronic or other forms.

Opinionline

What people are saying about the terrorist attacks across the USA

Terror attacks reminiscent of Pearl Harbor

By Shannon Stapleton, Reuters

Rubble: People make their way through the debris near the World Trade Center in New York on Tuesday.

Violating our safety

John Lahr, *Slate*, in a column: "I had two twin boys who died at birth, and I know in an existential sense that life can change on a dime; I feel now as I did then — something has instantly and inexorably changed in American life. And there is no going back. What is being lost ... is not a sense of innocence — that's long lost — but a sense of containment and invincibility. Fear will now be our daily bread, and hatred has been given new license. I fear the hysteria and the distortions and the violence that will soon be acted out in all quarters."

Alisa Solomon, the *Village Voice*, in an online column: "I spent much of this August in Israel and the occupied territories. I was there during the weeks the Sbarro pizza restaurant in Jerusalem was blown up by a suicide bomber, and left Haifa only a day before the bombing at a restaurant there. ... I began to understand the depth of Israeli fear. I lived in perpetual anxiety: sitting in a café, going to the grocery store, standing in any crowded area. Every time I boarded a bus I felt my heartbeat speed up. I never felt so relieved to return home. ... At last I could drop the guard, leave the panic behind. Or so I thought."

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in an editorial: "As the nation and we as individuals deal with the horrendous attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon ... there are a number of ideas that need to be kept in mind. The first of these is our vulnerability as a free nation. It is simply a fact that anyone with a pilot's license and a credit card can rent an aircraft. Hijacking an aircraft is more difficult but not beyond the abilities of organized people who are prepared to die for their cause. ... The second of these is that we live in a world where people who hate our country for one reason or another can take advantage of our free and open society to launch multiple, timed attacks on us if they wish. ... What the United States needs to do at this moment is keep its cool as it grieves. ... Freedom makes us vulnerable; freedom is also the core of our strength."

John Derbyshire, *National Review Online*, in a column: "As an event of this horror unfolds before one's eyes, a shift of perspective occurs. Kipling captured it in his magnificent poem on the outbreak of WWI: *For All We Have and Are*:

Our world has passed away,
In wantonness o'erthrown.
There is nothing left today
But steel and fire and stone!

Like Kipling, we suddenly know that the distractions of our pleasant, commonplace lives must be set aside for a while. There is a terrible and ruthless enemy. He hates our country, our very culture. He wishes death to us and our children. He is, right now, crowing with glee. ... (This) is the same enemy, the same truth, of which Kipling spoke: evil, naked and proud: 'a crazed and driven foe.' This is what humanity has faced before, since our story began to be written down. This is civilization vs. barbarism."

The Boston Herald in an editorial: "The targets were carefully chosen for their symbolism and for maximum impact. The twin towers of New York's World Trade Center, the epicenter of the nation's financial markets, symbols of a thriving capitalism now reduced to rubble. ... In Washington, the ultimate symbol of U.S. military might, the Pentagon itself, is wounded, a gaping hole in its side. ... Is there anyone among us who didn't pick up the phone to check on the whereabouts of a loved one? ... That, too is what terrorism does. It plays on our fears. Yesterday we as a people paid a terrible price for the gift of living in a free and open and democratic society. But if we lose sight of that gift, and of those values we still hold dear, then the terrorists will have truly won."

New tack on security

Chicago Tribune in an editorial: "The events of Tuesday, shocking though they may be, aren't entirely a surprise. In recent years, terrorism experts have warned of this nation's vulnerability to sneak attacks, via biological weaponry, suitcase bombs or the kind of suicide attack from which modern transportation can't protect itself. And yet we have grown complacent. Security had become routine, even a joke to many air travelers: Yes, yes, I packed my own bags. Our carefree moments are over, buried in the gray dust that coated the onlookers on streets of lower Manhattan after the first of the day's many tragedies.

The Economist in a column: "At a minimum, this event will mean a huge increase in security at airports, not just in the U.S. — where there has been remarkably little security on domestic flights — but throughout the world. Governments everywhere will now have to ask themselves whether ground security alone is enough or whether Israel's more radical approach will have to be adopted — assigning armed guards on every flight. Once the shock begins to wear off, America seems fated to a prolonged period of painful self-examination — about its security, about its place in the world, about the burdens as well as the benefits of being the sole, remaining superpower. Its sense of confidence and well-being, what many outsiders have long viewed as its continuing innocence, seem lost, if not forever, at least as far ahead as anyone can see through the flames and ruins in New York and Washington."

Detroit Free Press in an editorial: "The impact on this nation's sense of security will be profound. Suddenly, Americans in America are more vulnerable than we were ever willing to believe. ... The attacks exposed a serious weakness in the American intelligence network; how could an operation on this scale have gone undetected? This was clearly a coordinated assault. It had to be planned somewhere. Someone was pulling the strings and giving the orders. Someone was celebrating a great victory. Someone must pay. American leadership must see to it. Lady Liberty still stands tall. Shrouded in smoke. Covered in dust and blood. She is crying. She is angry. But she will not yield."

How to retaliate?

The London Telegraph in an editorial: "President Bush faces the worst crisis the White House has tackled since the Second World War, as scenes not witnessed by Americans since Pearl Harbor were watched live by millions around the globe. The United States has come under sustained attack for the first time in its history from an enemy who is not a nation, but an unpredictable and unseen terrorist organization rooted in the complex hatreds of the Middle East. The president has no choice but to strike back — but the key questions are how, and at whom. The USA has prided itself in the past on robust responses to terrorist assaults on its nationals. But now there is no obvious target for retribution."

Jay Ambrose, Scripps Howard News Service, in a column: "In the face of what many are calling 'the second Pearl Harbor,' the word must go out that there is no place on Earth where those responsible for the attacks in Washington and New York can hide, and the word must be followed by action that is swift and certain. U.S. investigative and military forces must be methodical. They must gather evidence carefully. They must be as sure of themselves as the enormous capacities of this great nation make possible. They must be calm, as in fact our leaders did seem to be during the day. But they must be neither hesitant nor timid as they move as quickly as possible to retaliate against enemies whose terrorism will otherwise breed still more terrorism. Americans can, should and most likely will face this crisis as they have others in the past — with toughness and with devotion to this exceptional land we and our forebears have created."

Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester, N.Y., in an editorial: "The terrorists — and at this point there is virtually no knowledge about who is responsible ... or how they (the airplanes) were obtained — have done today what many of their ilk said 8 years ago after the Trade Center bombing: There will be more to come. And you will not know the day, time or agent of attack. The initial reaction to this is a visceral anger and a desire to exact revenge, to find those responsible and to bring to bear on them the full power of America's fury. The fury is natural, along with the sorrow and shock — they were evident in President Bush's eyes as he spoke about the attack Tuesday. Bush says those responsible will be brought to justice, and he was right to say it in the way he did. The FBI is on the case, as is the military. There ought to be no rush to identify the culprits and retaliate. It is important to do this with reason and strength. One with the other. These killers must be found and punished. But it must be done as it has always been done: with great care and a respect for truth."

The Christian Science Monitor in an editorial: "The terrorists who organized the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon deserve to be punished. And those who plot such hateful acts against Americans need to be stopped. But in the coming days and weeks, Americans need to focus on one another and, in practical ways, help those touched by this national tragedy. Now is the time for strength of character — especially restraint, resilience and compassion — not fear, panic or trauma. The mental aftereffects of this event should be the nation's top priority — to show that self-destructive acts of evil need not triumph."

The Ritz-Carlton, Boston

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The Ritz-Carlton, Boston Common

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Weather

Today's temperatures, forecasts across the USA

c cloudy · pc partly cloudy · i ice · r rain · s sun · sf snow flurries · sh showers · sn snow · t thunderstorms

For latest weather conditions, forecasts visit **http://weather.usatoday.com**

°Fahrenheit

Below 10 | 10s | 20s | 30s | 40s | 50s | 60s | 70s | 80s | 90s | 100s

°Fahrenheit: 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

°Celsius: -12 -7 -1 4 10 16 21 27 32 38

Ask the experts

Send your questions to: Weather Editor Jack Williams, Email: weather@usatoday.com or write to: Jack Williams, Ask the experts/USATODAY, 1000 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA 22229

How many times has it rained in Marshall, Mich., on June 8?

In Lansing, Mich., the nearest official National Weather Service station, there has been no measurable rain on June 8 since at least 1997. So it's safe to say Marshall also has been dry. However, with an average of 3.6 inches of rain in June, the dry day likely was a coincidence. There are no guarantees that June 8 will be dry in the future.

More online: askjack.usatoday.com

Events

North Atlantic

Hurricane Erin was about 515 miles south of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Tuesday. Erin was moving north-northeast at 7 mph, continuing to curve away from land in a more easterly direction. Maximum sustained winds were near 90 mph with higher gusts. Erin is expected to weaken gradually, although storm force winds will buffet the East Coast with significant swells over the next few days.

Satellite image by NOAA

Today's air quality index (AQI)

If air quality is...	and you are active outdoors or have respiratory disease:
Good	No health problems expected.
Moderate	If you are unusually sensitive to ozone, limit outdoor exertion.
Unhealthy s/g (for sensitive groups)	Limit prolonged outdoor exertion.
Unhealthy	S/g: Avoid prolonged outdoor exertion. Everyone else should limit outdoor exertion.
Very unhealthy	S/g: Avoid all outdoor activity. Everyone else, especially children, should limit outdoor exertion.

Note: AQI forecasts ozone pollution.
Sensitive groups: Active children and adults and people with respiratory disease.
Sources: The American Lung Association, the Environmental Protection Agency

Extremes

Sunday:
High: 108° at Death Valley, Calif
Low: 17° at Fraser, Colo.

By Adrienne Lewis, USA TODAY

Alaska

Barrow 43/38r · Nome 53/39r · Fairbanks 61/44r · Anchorage 58/41r · Juneau 54/50r

Hawaii

Lihue 89/73pc · Wailuku 88/74pc · Honolulu 89/75s · Hilo 85/67pc

Puerto Rico

San Juan 88/77s

Virgin Islands

St. Thomas 88/78t

Atlanta
Partly cloudy with light east winds 84/65
Thursday: Partly cloudy 82/64
Friday: Partly cloudy 81/62
AQI: Good

Baltimore
Sunny 78/59
Thursday: Partly cloudy, chance of showers 80/61
Friday: Sunny 73/55
AQI: Good

Boston
Mostly sunny 73/50
Thursday: Mostly cloudy, chance of showers 70/54
Friday: Mostly sunny 65/48
AQI: Good

Charlotte
Partly cloudy with light east winds 79/59
Thursday: Partly cloudy 80/60
Friday: Partly cloudy 78/58
AQI: Good

Chicago
Partly cloudy with breezy west winds 80/61
Thursday: Mostly cloudy 70/56
Friday: Partly cloudy 71/50
AQI: Good

Cincinnati
Mostly sunny with southeast winds 80/52
Thursday: Partly cloudy 75/57
Friday: Partly cloudy 70/51
AQI: Good

Cleveland
Clouds and showers move in this evening 77/50
Thursday: Chance of showers 73/56
Friday: Partly cloudy 69/49
AQI: Good

Columbus
Increasing clouds 80/52
Thursday: Partly cloudy and cooler 72/57
Friday: Partly cloudy 70/50
AQI: Good

Dallas-Ft. W.
Mostly sunny with southeast winds 90/62
Thursday: Partly cloudy 89/64
Friday: Partly cloudy 91/66
AQI: Unhealthy s/g

Denver
Sunny and seasonable 82/52
Thursday: Partly cloudy 80/51
Friday: Partly cloudy 76/50
AQI: Good

Detroit
Increasing clouds, thunderstorms late 76/52
Thursday: Partly cloudy 69/46
Friday: Partly cloudy 66/45
AQI: Good

Honolulu
Mostly sunny 89/75
Thursday: Scattered evening showers 88/74
Friday: Scattered showers 87/73
AQI: Good

Houston
Mostly sunny with northeast winds 89/64
Thursday: Mostly sunny 91/65
Friday: Mostly sunny 92/66
AQI: Moderate

Indianapolis
Mostly sunny 81/55
Thursday: Partly cloudy and mild 79/57
Friday: Partly cloudy and cooler 73/51
AQI: Good

Kansas City
Sunny 84/58
Thursday: Partly cloudy 76/59
Friday: Chance of thunderstorms late 77/56
AQI: Good

Las Vegas
Mostly sunny with breezy south winds 95/70
Thursday: Mostly sunny and breezy 94/68
Friday: Mostly sunny 96/69
AQI: Good

Los Angeles
Morning low clouds, then partial clearing 76/62
Thursday: Becoming mostly sunny by afternoon 77/63
Friday: Afternoon sun 78/61
AQI: Good

Memphis
Mostly sunny with light northeast winds 88/62
Thursday: Partly cloudy 89/64
Friday: Mostly sunny 87/65
AQI: Moderate

Miami
Numerous showers and thunderstorms 86/75
Thursday: Showers 87/76
Friday: Chance of t-storms 89/77
AQI: Good

Mpls-St.Paul
Partly cloudy with south winds 72/57
Thursday: Partly cloudy 66/50
Friday: Partly cloudy 65/45
AQI: Good

Nashville
Sunny with light and variable winds 87/56
Thursday: Partly cloudy 88/61
Friday: Partly cloudy 80/57
AQI: Moderate

New Orleans
Chance of late day thunderstorms 88/74
Thursday: Partly cloudy 87/73
Friday: Partly cloudy 89/75
AQI: Good

New York
Sunny with east winds 77/60
Thursday: Showers develop by evening 78/61
Friday: Partly cloudy 72/59
AQI: Good

Orlando
Scattered showers, t-storms 87/74
Thursday: Scattered thunderstorms 88/73
Friday: Scattered thunderstorms 89/72
AQI: Good

Philadelphia
Sunny 79/59
Thursday: Partly cloudy, chance of showers 76/61
Friday: Partly cloudy 73/55
AQI: Good

Phoenix
Partly cloudy 105/79
Thursday: Partly cloudy 101/78
Friday: Chance of showers and thunderstorms 100/77
AQI: Moderate

Pittsburgh
Mostly sunny 78/50
Thursday: Scattered daytime showers 73/57
Friday: Partly cloudy 68/49
AQI: Good

Portland, Ore.
Morning clouds, becoming mostly sunny 78/54
Thursday: Partly cloudy 75/55
Friday: Mostly sunny 76/51
AQI: Good

Sacramento
Partly cloudy with south winds 83/57
Thursday: Mostly sunny 87/58
Friday: Mostly sunny 88/59
AQI: Good

St. Louis
Mostly sunny, calm and mild 82/53
Thursday: Mostly cloudy 80/57
Friday: Partly cloudy 78/56
AQI: Moderate

Salt Lake City
Good chance of thunderstorms 80/63
Thursday: Chance of thunderstorms 84/62
Friday: Partly cloudy and cooler 79/50
AQI: Good

San Diego
Morning clouds, afternoon clearing 73/64
Thursday: Some afternoon sunshine 74/63
Friday: Variable clouds 72/65
AQI: Good

San Francisco
Partly cloudy with seabreezes 73/56
Thursday: Mostly sunny afternoon 72/55
Friday: Morning clouds, afternoon clearing 74/54
AQI: Good

Seattle
Partly cloudy with north winds 74/53
Thursday: Mostly sunny 73/52
Friday: Mostly sunny 72/51
AQI: Good

Tampa
Showers and thunderstorms likely 86/74
Thursday: Heavy thunderstorms 87/73
Friday: Scattered thunderstorms 89/75
AQI: Good

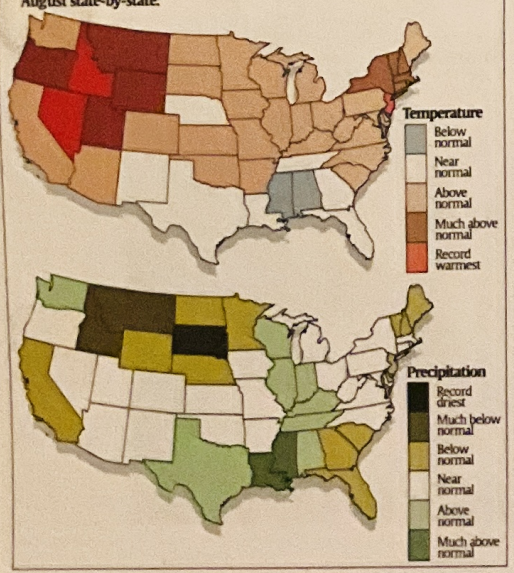
Washington
Sunny 78/61
Thursday: Increasing clouds, chance of showers 80/62
Friday: Sunny 73/58
AQI: Good

USA TODAY weather focus

August on record as a warm month

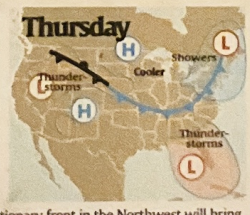
August temperatures in the nation were well above average. Precipitation in the nation was near normal for the month. All regions, except the Southeast, experienced above-normal temperatures. August was the 4th warmest such month in 107 years of record-keeping.

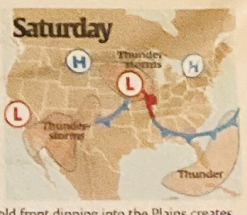
August state-by-state:



Source: National Climatic Data Center

By Dave Merrill, USA TODAY





Today through Saturday outlook: A stationary front in the Northwest will bring rain and thunderstorms to the Great Basin today. A persistent low near Florida will keep thunderstorms in the state. A cold front dipping into the Plains creates showers in the Great Lakes today before moving into the Northeast.

National forecast

	Today	Thursday
Albany, N.Y.	75/49s	67/44sh
Albuquerque	88/58pc	86/59pc
Allentown, Pa.	75/51s	77/49sh
Anchorage	58/41r	55/46r
Atlantic City	79/54s	75/56sh
Augusta, Ga.	87/61s	85/55s
Austin, Texas	89/63s	90/64s
Bakersfield, Calif.	85/62s	88/61s
Baton Rouge	89/67pc	88/70pc
Birmingham, Ala.	86/66pc	84/68pc
Bismarck, N.D.	65/42c	64/43c
Boise, Idaho	83/58t	80/55t
Buffalo	75/52pc	68/55sh
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	82/58pc	65/54pc
Charleston, S.C.	84/70t	83/69t
Colorado Springs	80/47pc	78/50pc
Columbia, S.C.	87/63s	85/61s
Dayton, Ohio	80/53s	72/56pc
Daytona Beach, Fla.	87/74t	86/73t
Des Moines	78/57s	69/55c
Duluth, Minn.	63/50pc	59/40c
El Paso	90/65pc	89/66pc
Fort Myers, Fla.	86/75t	87/76t
Fresno, Calif.	86/62s	88/60s
Grand Rapids, Mich.	75/52t	67/51pc
Greensboro, N.C.	80/59s	82/60s
Greenville, S.C.	81/62pc	83/61pc
Harrisburg, Pa.	79/53s	78/54sh
Hartford, Conn.	73/50s	60/51sh
Huntsville, Ala.	85/63s	84/61pc
Islip, N.Y.	75/56s	74/60sh
Jackson, Miss.	88/65pc	89/64pc
Jacksonville, Fla.	86/73t	85/72t
Knoxville, Tenn.	83/59s	82/57s
Lexington, Ky.	82/56s	80/60pc
Little Rock	84/60s	87/61pc
Louisville	84/56s	80/61pc
Lubbock, Texas	90/60s	87/59pc
Madison, Wis.	77/55t	65/48pc
McAllen, Texas	96/73s	97/76s
Milwaukee	77/56t	63/50pc
Mobile, Ala.	89/71t	91/72t
Myrtle Beach, S.C.	83/67s	85/68pc
Nags Head, N.C.	81/70s	80/69s
Norfolk, Va.	78/61s	80/62pc
Oklahoma City	86/58s	85/59s
Omaha	81/58pc	72/55t
Palm Springs, Calif.	103/69pc	104/70pc
Pensacola, Fla.	87/71t	90/72t
Portland, Maine	70/50s	64/52sh
Providence, R.I.	72/50s	70/49sh
Raleigh, N.C.	80/60s	82/61s
Reno	80/50t	81/47pc
Richmond, Va.	79/59s	81/58s
Rochester, N.Y.	75/52pc	68/55sh
San Antonio	90/65s	91/64s
San Jose, Calif.	78/55pc	78/56pc
Sarasota, Fla.	86/75t	87/74t
Savannah, Ga.	83/71t	85/70t
Shreveport, La.	88/60s	89/64s
South Bend, Ind.	80/52s	70/56pc
Spokane, Wash.	83/47s	82/49s
Springfield, Mo.	82/55s	81/57s
Syracuse, N.Y.	71/50pc	69/55sh
Toledo, Ohio	79/50pc	72/57sh
Tucson, Ariz.	98/72pc	97/73pc
Tulsa	88/56s	89/58s
Wichita	87/60s	85/58s

World weather

	Today	Thursday
Acapulco, Mexico	84/75sh	91/75sh
Amman, Jordan	89/70s	90/72s
Amsterdam, Holland	68/54pc	63/52sh
Athens, Greece	82/68s	84/66s
Auckland, New Zealand	59/48pc	61/50pc
Bangkok, Thailand	90/73t	91/75r
Beijing	75/55pc	77/59pc
Beirut	84/73s	82/72s
Belmopan, Belize	95/73s	91/70s
Berlin	63/54pc	59/52r
Bogota, Colombia	61/46r	59/46r
Bombay, India	92/73s	93/72s
Bridgetown, Barbados	86/73s	84/75sh
Brussels	68/55s	63/48sh
Budapest, Hungary	61/50sh	66/52sh
Buenos Aires, Argentina	63/39s	61/48s
Cairo, Egypt	95/73s	95/70s
Calgary	59/36c	66/37c
Cancun, Mexico	95/72sh	90/77sh
Caracas, Venezuela	88/76sh	86/77sh
Copenhagen, Denmark	66/50sh	59/48sh
Cozumel, Mexico	93/72sh	91/75sh
Dublin, Ireland	64/46pc	57/48sh
Edmonton, Canada	56/36sh	63/39pc
Fort-de-France	90/73s	88/75s
Frankfurt, Germany	66/54sh	61/55r
Freeport, Bahamas	85/75t	87/74t
Geneva	66/52sh	73/54s
Guatemala City	79/57sh	75/59sh
Halifax	68/50s	64/57s
Hamilton, Bermuda	84/75s	82/70s
Havana	87/73t	88/70t
Ho Chi Minh City	90/77pc	89/79pc
Hong Kong	85/81c	86/79sh
Istanbul, Turkey	76/67sh	77/61s
Jakarta, Indonesia	88/73sh	88/75sh
Jerusalem	86/70s	84/64s
Johannesburg	70/50sh	61/50sh
Kingston, Jamaica	92/76s	91/77sh
Lagos, Nigeria	86/75sh	88/73sh
Lima, Peru	63/58c	68/61s
London	68/61pc	63/52sh
Madrid, Spain	86/52s	86/55s
Managua, Nicaragua	91/73sh	88/72sh
Manila	85/79pc	84/77pc
Melbourne, Australia	59/48t	61/48t
Mexico City	75/54sh	74/49c
Milan, Italy	70/57s	77/61s
Monterrey, Mexico	86/68c	95/67c
Montevideo, Uruguay	59/43s	61/45s
Montreal	70/48pc	63/41sh
Moscow	68/59s	66/52r
Munich, Germany	55/52r	68/52s
Nairobi, Kenya	77/57s	77/55s
Nassau, Bahamas	90/78t	89/76pc
New Delhi, India	99/75s	99/75s
Oslo, Norway	59/45sh	54/45r
Panama City, Panama	86/70sh	84/66sh
Paris	68/55sh	66/52r
Philipsburg, St. Maarten	90/79s	84/77s
Prague, Czech Republic	61/50sh	61/48r
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico	91/75c	88/75sh
Quebec	63/43s	55/41sh
Quito, Ecuador	61/41sh	63/48r
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	68/57pc	73/64pc
Rome	75/55s	75/57s
San Jose, Costa Rica	84/64sh	86/63sh
San Juan, Puerto Rico	88/77s	89/76t
San Salvador, El Salvador	88/70sh	81/68sh
Santiago, Chile	63/54sh	64/52s
Santo Domingo, Dom. Rep.	90/77pc	88/73sh
Sarajevo, Bosnia	66/45sh	72/52sh
Seoul, Korea	84/70pc	82/61pc
Shanghai, China	82/73pc	81/72pc
Singapore	88/72pc	86/73sh
St. Petersburg, Russia	66/46s	59/50sh
St. Thomas, V.I.	88/78t	87/77t
Stockholm, Sweden	68/50sh	63/57r
Suva, Fiji	81/68pc	82/68pc
Sydney, Australia	68/54t	72/52pc
Taipei, Taiwan	91/75c	90/75t
Tegucigalpa, Honduras	88/66s	77/70sh
Tokyo	81/73sh	84/72pc
Toronto	73/52pc	61/48sh
Vancouver	64/52c	75/54s
Vienna	59/48sh	68/55sh
Warsaw, Poland	61/50t	63/48sh
Winnipeg	66/41c	64/37s
Zurich, Switzerland	59/46sh	72/54s

Meteorologists Dave Vanore and Lance Steele
weathernews
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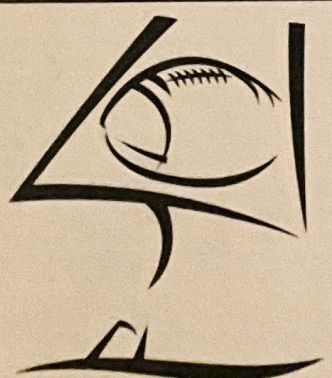

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Money
SECTION B
Wednesday, September 12, 2001

Under attack

By Shannon Stapleton, Reuters

Ash: A man on a New York street.

- Companies with operations inside the World Trade towers cope with the loss of co-workers, **3B.** List of tower tenants, **10B**
- Workers nationwide feel vulnerable, **4B**
- Air travelers nationwide are stranded, **5B.**
- Why airport security was lax, **6B**
- How emergency workers search for victims, **7B**

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Attacks could tip U.S. into recession

Shock could shatter already fragile economy

By George Hager
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Economists have warned for more than a year that the U.S. economy might slip through its prolonged slump without a recession — unless it got hit by some unforeseen shock.

Now, analysts say Tuesday's airliner attacks on New York and Washington could be just that sort of shock, powerful enough to send already fragile consumer confidence plunging and push the USA into a serious downturn.

"It's happening at just the wrong time," says Mark Zandi, chief economist for Economy.com. "It can't be good for confidence, and confidence is extremely shaky. This may be the thing that does the economy in."

Economists say consumers — already worried by a worsening job market and seemingly unending bad news from American companies — could sharply curtail their spending and hunker down in anticipation that times could be bad for quite a while. That would kick the last prop out from under an economy that would have contracted in the April-June quarter had it not been for reasonably healthy consumer spending.

"Until the federal government can convince the American people that things will be OK, we cannot expect that consumers will behave in a business-as-usual manner," says Anthony Chan, chief economist for Banc One Investment Advisors. "The fact that U.S. officials cannot rule out further attacks will keep consumers here and abroad in a deeply uncertain state."

Analysts were groping for historical comparisons Tuesday. The onset of the Gulf War in 1990 sent oil prices shooting up and consumer confidence plummeting. Ken Matheny, a senior economist for Macroeconomic Advisers, says the Conference Board's widely watched measure of consumer confidence fell from 101.7 in July 1990 to 62.6 that October, a stunning drop that helped push the USA into recession.

Inside on 5B
- Foreign markets tumble
- How commodity markets reacted

"This is a bigger event, and I'm very hesitant to draw a conclusion," Matheny says. "It's fairly certain there's going to be a decline in consumer confidence. I wouldn't begin to guess how big."

Consumer confidence has already fallen in the current slump, losing more than 33 points as it dropped from a high of 142.5 last September to 109.2 in February. It began inching back up in March, but has since fallen again and is now hovering at 114.3.

The Federal Reserve moved quickly Tuesday to stem any fallout in the USA's banking system, saying that it was open for business and ready to provide banks with funds they might need to keep going.

In a terse statement issued after the attacks, the Fed said: "The Federal Reserve system is open and operating. The discount window is available to meet liquidity needs." The rarely used discount window is where banks can go to borrow money directly from the Fed.

A similar statement after the October 1987 stock market crash was credited with buttressing investor confidence and heading off broader panic. Though several government buildings here were evacuated Tuesday, the Fed stayed open. Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan had been attending a banking conference in Switzerland. He was in communication with the Fed from an undisclosed location after his flight from Switzerland to Washington was diverted Tuesday after the attacks, the Fed said.

Nariman Behravesh, chief economist for DRI-WEFA, says he estimates that the fallout from Tuesday's terrorist attacks will shave a half-point off the USA's economic growth rate in the final quarter of this year, a potentially significant hit.

The economy grew at an annual rate of 0.2% in the April-June quarter, and a 0.5% reduction would have pushed it into contraction.

Moneyline

Akamai co-founder on Flight 11

Akamai Technologies said Tuesday that one of its co-founders, Daniel Lewin, was killed when the jet he boarded crashed into New York's World Trade Center. Lewin, who served as the Internet content distribution firm's chief technology officer, was on board American Airlines Flight 11. ... **MRV Communications**, which makes network infrastructure systems, also said that Chief Financial Officer Edmund Glazer was a passenger on American Airlines Flight 11.

General Mills delays release of earnings

Cereal maker General Mills postponed the release of its first-quarter earnings report Tuesday in response to "the tragedy and disruption of today's national events." General Mills was to release its earnings results today. ... **H.J. Heinz** postponed its annual shareholders meeting, which was to be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Pittsburgh. The meeting will be rescheduled. (Heinz earnings, 14B.) ... **EIS Fund**, the umbrella company for closed-end bond fund Excelsior Income Shares, postponed its shareholders meeting scheduled for today. ... **Rent-Way** said that it has postponed its annual meeting scheduled for Friday.

Morgan Stanley establishes call center

Morgan Stanley, one of the World Trade Center's largest tenants, with 3,500 workers on 25 floors, established a call center Tuesday. For information regarding employee-related safety concerns, call 888-883-4391. (World Trade Center tenants, 3B.)

Trade center lease worth $3.2 billion

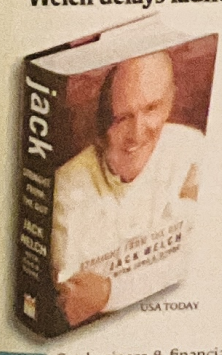
The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey turned the property over to private-sector control in July. Silverstein Properties and Westfield American leased the complex for 99 years for $3.2 billion.

Corporate relief efforts begin

U.S. Bank and Firstar Bank opened disaster relief funds for people who want to contribute to victims of Tuesday's attacks. Donations, which can be made at any banks' location, will be forwarded to the American Red Cross. ... **Pathmark Supermarkets** patrons can contribute up to $5 to Red Cross relief efforts by using in-store scan cards. Pathmark is also donating supplies to victims and rescue workers. ... **Walgreen** is donating $50,000 in cash and supplies to Red Cross relief efforts, as well as 2,000 pillows to travelers stranded at Chicago's O'Hare airport.

By Jeffrey A. Fick from staff and wire reports

Welch delays launch of book



Following the terrorist attacks, Jack Welch canceled the launch of his book that went on sale Tuesday. But when normalcy returns, the book is a good place to renew your faith in the success of free enterprise. **Review, 17B**

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International travelers open their wallets
Spending by international travelers in the USA has increased 14% since 1999:
$71.3 billion
$74.9 billion
$85.2 billion
1998
1999
2000
Source: Travel Industry of America Research Department; TIA's Profile of Travel to America, USA Annual Edition, 2001

By Darryl Haralson and Sam Ward, USA TODAY

By Daniel Shanken, AP

Running for safety: People flee lower Manhattan across the Brooklyn Bridge in New York Tuesday after a terrorist attack brought down the World Trade Center towers. Businesses across the nation shut down.

Catastrophe suspends business as usual in USA

From tall buildings to malls, commerce grinds to halt

By Gary Strauss
USA TODAY

Fallout from the terrorist bombings in New York and Washington on Tuesday paralyzed commerce, travel, communications and productivity from Wall Street to Main Street.

The first major acts of terrorism in the USA since 1995's Oklahoma City bombing rattled Corporate America and millions of workers like no seminal event since Pearl Harbor. And the repercussions could last for some time.

Cover story

"The notion of business as usual in America is suspended until further notice," says Ian Mitroff, crisis management consultant and business professor at the University of Southern California. "This is a case where emotions have to take precedence over profits."

With major operations at the World Trade Center complex, major investment banks such as Morgan Stanley are likely to remain paralyzed by the loss of key personnel and material. Morgan Stanley was the biggest employer in the buildings, with 3,500 employees and 25 floors of office space. Switzerland's Credit Suisse Group has 800 employees, OppenheimerFunds had 600. All told, the World Trade Center housed about 50,000 workers.

Fearful that the attacks that demolished the twin towers in New York might be repeated elsewhere, major office buildings, shopping malls and other public buildings were closed across the nation. Among them: the Sears Tower in Chicago's financial district, the Hancock Tower in Boston, Seattle's Bank of America Tower and Los Angeles' 74-story Library Tower, the tallest building west of the Mississippi River.

By Robert Hanashiro, USA TODAY

Do not enter: Workers close streets leading to Disneyland after officials closed the park.

Scores of smaller office buildings, as well as manufacturing plants, retail outlets and amusement parks, were also closed. In Minneapolis, the Mall of America, the nation's largest shopping and entertainment complex, was shut down. Walt Disney shuttered its Disneyland theme park in California and Disney World in Florida as well as water

Please see COVER STORY next page ▸

Markets remain closed today

Investors around the world flee stocks for safer havens

By Adam Shell
USA TODAY

Financial markets will be closed again today

Inside
- Outlook for U.S. markets, **3B**
- Financial institutions try to reassure investors amid turmoil, **3B**
- Outlook for global markets, **5B**

A terrorist attack transformed Wall Street's financial district into a war zone Tuesday, forcing U.S. stock exchanges to shut down and sparking panic selling in stock markets around the globe.

Financial markets were thrust into chaos after two hijacked planes slammed into the World Trade Center's famed twin towers 30 minutes before the U.S. market was set to open. It never did.

But shares tumbled sharply in foreign markets as investors' confidence in U.S. financial assets — usually a haven — was badly shaken. "It's quite devastating," says Andy Engel, senior analyst at The Leuthold Group. "The U.S. was considered impenetrable. Now, the U.S. is vulnerable."

The U.K.'s FTSE 100 plunged 5.7% and France's CAC 40 fell 7.4%, the biggest declines since the 1987 market crash. Before trading was suspended in Latin America, stocks on the major exchanges in Brazil fell 9.2%, Mexico lost 5.6% and Argentina lost 5.2%. Today, Japan's Nikkei index was down 5% by midafternoon, dropping below 10,000 for the first time in 17 years, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index dropped 7.9% in early trading.

U.S. investors are braced for what happens when trading resumes here. The uncertainty and psychological impact of the attack could have negative ramifications for U.S. stocks when trading resumes, experts say. But that won't occur until at least Thursday.

The New York Stock Exchange, Nasdaq Stock Market and American Stock Exchange, which were closed Tuesday, will remain closed today. The Securities and Exchange Commission will announce today when markets will reopen.

Stock market experts, who are comparing this unexpected, unanticipated and highly charged emotional event to the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941 and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963, expect stocks to sell off sharply when trading resumes. Some expect declines of 10% or more. A flight to cash and other safe investments is expected.

"Clients are calling and asking how much they can expect to lose," says Jerry Castellini, president of CastleArk Management in Chicago.

The big worry is that fragile consumer confidence will be shattered, hurting the chances for recovery. Some analysts worry that the attacks could push the economy into recession (story, above).

The dollar plunged and the price of crude oil soared Tuesday, much like at the onset of the Gulf War in 1990. To stabilize global markets, the Federal Reserve said it is ready to inject liquidity into the system.

Not everyone on Wall Street is worried about sinking stock prices. "I lost friends today. I lost clients today. Where the stocks are going is inconsequential," says Brian Belski of U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray.

Some strategists don't expect damage to the market to drag on indefinitely. "The long-term outlook for the nation's economy is still positive," despite the attack, says Al Goldman, strategist at A.G. Edwards.

Stock market historians also point out that the market has held up well in the wake of other massive tragedies. In the first two trading days after the Pearl Harbor attack, the Dow Jones industrials fell just 6.3%, says InvesTech Research. The Dow actually rallied nearly 5% in the first trading session after Kennedy was assassinated. "You can't downplay the significance of this tragedy, but it's important to separate the emotional impact from the economic impact," says Jim Stack, president of InvesTech.

Under attack

Workers in a daze as companies shut down

Continued from 1B

parks, shopping areas and other company-owned sites.

Officials in Washington state halted car traffic on its ferry system.

Corporate shutdowns

Major corporations shut down operations Tuesday:

▸ Ford Motor closed all U.S. and Canadian manufacturing plants and office buildings in Detroit, New York and Washington, D.C. Most U.S. auto industry leaders were in Germany for the Frankfurt International Auto Show.

"Obviously, it is a very sad set of circumstances. ... Everything we hear is tragic," said Ford CEO Jacques Nasser as he entered the Marriott Hotel in Frankfurt to give a speech.

▸ DaimlerChrysler also shut all its plants and evacuated its offices in Detroit, New York and Washington, D.C.

▸ General Motors closed its Detroit, New York and Washington, D.C., offices. About 6,000 employees work at the GM headquarters in Detroit, 250 in New York and 20 in D.C. Because of its proximity to New York, GM also closed a Linden, N.J., plant that builds sport-utility vehicles and small pickups.

Cover story

▸ Aerospace giant Boeing evacuated its new world headquarters at the top floors of the 36-story former Morton Salt building in downtown Chicago, sending 200 executives and support staff home. Boeing executives moved into the building last Wednesday as the company shifted corporate headquarters from Seattle to Chicago. Boeing also evacuated 200 employees from its offices in a Washington, D.C., suburb and tightened security at factories in Seattle, Wichita and Los Angeles.

▸ Starbucks shut down almost all of its 3,700 North American coffee shops, although some New York outlets remained open to provide refuge to people stranded in the city.

▸ In Southern California, major movie studios such as Paramount, Sony Pictures and Warner Bros. were shuttered as studio tours and production of movies and TV shows were shut down. Many of the landmark attractions on the Las Vegas strip, including the Eiffel and Stratosphere towers, were closed, although casinos remained open.

With Wall Street closed, at least three financial conferences in San Francisco were canceled.

"We're in limbo. We haven't been able to reach our colleagues or families in New York," said Joe Amato, director of global equity research for Lehman Bros., anxiously eyeing a nearby TV at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. "It's chaos. We don't know what happened to our employees at the World Trade Center and World Financial Center."

In an adjacent ballroom, about 100 financial analysts attending a computer conference silently watched CNN on a big screen.

"There's a sense of tragedy, loss and disbelief," said Bill Haraf, business manager for Bank of America's equities division, attending another conference at San Francisco's Ritz-Carlton. Bank of America has 400 employees at the World Trade Center complex.

All airports closed

In an unprecedented move, the Federal Aviation Administration closed all U.S. airports, stranding thousands of businesses and leisure travelers both here and abroad. Dozens of overseas flights headed for U.S. destinations were diverted to Asia, Europe and Canada. Scores of air ship ents were also canceled. Airports are not expected to be open until at least midday today.

Harry Gruber, CEO of communications firm Kintera, was stuck in Dallas, his flight to San Diego canceled. "My initial response was to declare a national mourning day and tell everyone to go home. But we're in the communications business. We needed to see how we could help. Employees have been on the phone with the Red Cross and other non-profits to set up community Web sites. Everybody is in tears."

In the heart of Silicon Valley, the usually jammed San Jose International Airport was desolate. All 400 flights for 14 airlines were grounded, stranding more than 25,000 passengers. The few travelers still at the airport wandered in a daze. Lee Bruno, a Labor Department consultant in San Jose on business, broke down in tears as she spoke of trying to reach her daughters and their families in Washington, D.C. One daughter works at the Environmental Protection Agency, while the other works at a law firm near the White House.

"My God, I can't conceive the horror of the attacks," said Bruno, who will stay with relatives in Fremont, Calif., until she can return to Washington. "How could this be happening?"

The apparent hijackings of United and American airlines' commercial jets in the attacks could severely hurt air travel, at least near-term.

"I don't know how the airline industry is going to survive it," said Stanley Nabi of Credit Suisse First Boston. Nabi canceled all of his flights for the next 2 weeks.

Airlines weren't the only transport companies affected. Amtrak shut down along its Northeast Corridor line. And Greyhound Lines, the biggest U.S. bus line, suspended many of its lines in the Northeast and nearly 30 other locations nationwide.

Disrupted phone, Internet service

Millions of callers jammed telephone lines across the USA, but despite the network congestion, the national telephone networks continued to operate. "We're experiencing double call volume of a normal busy day, which is generating network congestion. The network is fine. There's just too many calls," said Dave Johnson, a spokesman at AT&T, the nation's biggest long-distance carrier.

Wireless carriers appeared to have more busy signals than regular telephone lines. No. 2 wireless carrier Cingular Wireless saw a 1,000% jump in call attempts Tuesday morning out of a Piscataway, N.J., switching office, which serves the New Jersey and greater New York area. In Washington, D.C., Cingular experienced a 400% rise.

Call volume was so high that Cingular suggested customers use regular telephone service if possible.

"These are the greatest calling volumes we've ever had," said Brenda Raney, spokeswoman for Verizon Wireless, the biggest wireless carrier.

Sprint, the USA's No. 3 long-distance carrier, said some of its network equipment in one of the World Trade Center towers was destroyed, causing service outages in the area.

Sprint PCS, a national wireless carrier, reported network congestion in parts of New York, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., Detroit, Tampa and Philadelphia. With phone networks clogged, some turned to the Internet for information, forcing some businesses to shut down their Net connections because they were overwhelmed by traffic. Major U.S. news Web sites were overwhelmed, often frustrating users.

Shaken workplaces

Scores of shell-shocked workers across the USA who made it to their offices were either too upset to work or too consumed by media reports or talking to co-workers about the terrorist attacks to get much done.

"Pretty much, all work in my area is at a standstill as we watch this unfold," said Doug Hunt, a services and support manager at Eastman Kodak in Rochester, N.Y. "People are listening to radios and watching the news on TV. Some work is going on, but it's tough."

Employees at major Silicon Valley firms were given the option of working from home or taking care of personal business. Hewlett-Packard, which evacuated its New York and Washington, D.C., offices, encouraged employees in San Francisco and Los Angeles to work from home Tuesday.

San Francisco's normally bustling financial district resembled a ghost town. By 9 a.m. PT, more people were leaving San Francisco than were heading in.

"A lot of people turned around and went home," says Bill Deadman, 50, branch president of contracting firm LVI.

The firm told its non-essential employees in California, numbering 500, to take the day off.

"A lot of them seemed in shock," Deadman said, and many feared that San Francisco, the heart of the West Coast financial center, is unsafe.

Job experts say that type of workplace sentiment will remain pervasive and likely will alter the way employees view their jobs.

"The sense of security in the workplace in the USA has been shattered forever," said Barbara Brooks, president of Strategy Group, a corporate consulting firm. "This wasn't Pearl Harbor. This was an office building that got hit."

By Charles Bennett, AP

A meeting on the sidewalk: A Chicago police officer walks by a pair of workers outside the Sears Tower in Chicago as the building is being evacuated. Most tall buildings across the nation were being shut down.

By Pablo Martinez Monsivais, AP

Evacuated: Workers leave buildings in Washington after The Capitol, White House and other federal buildings were ordered evacuated.

By Paul Sakuma, AP

Closed: The Transamerica Pyramid in downtown San Francisco was one of many buildings closed Tuesday.

Mitroff says CEOs operating high-rise office buildings in big cities should give employees the option of whether they want to go to work over the next few days. No one should be "required" to go to work, he says.

"Everyone in World Trade Center-like towers will be unbelievably anxious for years to come," said Robert Blendon, a Harvard University professor who specializes in public opinion.

"Some people will be very afraid of working in something that could be such a target. We can see this in Europe, where there have been terrorist attacks. It's never over. There's always the possibility of another attack."

Contributing: Byron Acohido, Julie Appleby, Stephanie Armour, Andrew Backover, Earle Eldridge, George Hager, Bruce Horovitz, Ed Iwata, David Kiley, Julie Schmit, Jon Swartz and John Waggoner

How will small companies fare after attack?

Answer depends on how consumers, government react

By Jim Hopkins
USA TODAY

SAN FRANCISCO — Already buffeted by the flagging economy, small companies coast to coast are bracing for financial fallout from Tuesday's apparent terrorist attacks.

The nation's 5.6 million small firms, which comprise 99% of all U.S. employers, are especially sensitive to sudden economic changes because they lack the capital and other resources to weather hard times. Yet, small firms play a critical economic role because they create virtually all new jobs. Still absorbing the impact of Tuesday's events, entrepreneurs predict the small business economy will:

▸ **Worsen.** Consumers will become even more cautious — especially in how they invest, says Jeffrey Winston, CEO of Radionic Industries, a Chicago manufacturer of parts for fluorescent lights. Pumping money into investments, such as gold, rather than start-ups will not help expand the economy, Winston, 56, says.

"All of that translates into small businesses having to be more creative to try to increase business," he says. Companies like his "can't sit back and wait for customer orders to come in over the fax machine," Winston says. "You've got to roll up your sleeves and dig in a little harder."

But Winston repeated a sentiment expressed by other entrepreneurs: Companies must plow ahead. "We don't want the terrorists to win by making it impossible to do business all over the world. I think that that's what they want."

Some firms are already being hurt. Colette Kuki says her four MailBoxes Etc. stores in Shelby Township, Mich., lost $3,000 in business Tuesday.

▸ **Remain the same.** Gary Adams, owner of International Wood Products, a building-supply company in Portland, Ore., with 58 workers, says consumer confidence will be shaken — but not enough to worsen the already soft economy.

William Dunkelberg, chief economist for the National Federation of Independent Business trade group, says the economic damage is focused on New York and Washington, D.C. While billions of dollars in assets were destroyed, that won't affect small firms elsewhere unless it causes consumer spending to plunge. "Sad, but that's the way things are," he says.

One unknown, says Dunkelberg: How Congress will adjust federal spending in the wake of the attacks. More funds for the military could benefit small firms that are part of the defense industry, for example.

▸ **Improve.** If Tuesday's incidents lead to armed conflict between the United States and another nation, that could jump-start the economy and benefit small companies everywhere, says Chandra Louise, 35, president of consulting firm Peer Productions in Research Triangle Park, N.C. She, like many, compared the event to Pearl Harbor. "We have never had an attack on American soil like this in my lifetime," she said.

Her partner, Fred Smith, 65, said the economy boomed in previous wars. "I think the stock market will go up," he said. And consumer spending could increase as Americans rally in a show of national unity, Smith says.

Chris Wampler, 34, owner of Text Bucks, which sells books to college students in Springfield, Mo., hasn't changed his view about the economy. "Most of the economic problems that we are facing right now are emotional and tied to consumer confidence," he says. "The tax cut refund checks will kick in eventually."

Gas prices climb as lines grow at stations

Closed pipelines, refineries cause panic about supplies

By Del Jones
and Earle Eldridge
USA TODAY

Long gas lines formed Tuesday afternoon in several states and gasoline prices spiked throughout the Midwest and South as motorists worried that supplies might dwindle because of closed pipelines, refineries and pending retaliation by the U.S. military.

Lines and higher prices were reported in at least nine states. R and L Texaco in Oklahoma City was charging $5 a gallon.

But owner Ralph Pfenninger said he will reopen today at $1.64 a gallon, the price before the markup. He says he initially raised the prices because his supplier told him he didn't know when he could deliver more gas and what the price might be.

"We will refund the difference to any customer who paid $5 per gallon," Pfenninger says.

Lines of 20 to 30 cars were common. The line was 50 cars long at Gary's Westown Shell in Carbondale, Ill. "We're backed up to the highway (Highway 13)," says night manager Phil Lanom.

In East Lansing, Mich., Mobil station owner Jim Little says he was selling 1,500 gallons an hour on Tuesday. He typically sells about 3,000 gallons a day.

Little, who has been in the business for 31 years, says it was similar to a rush on gasoline after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He says he planned to raise his price from $1.98 a gallon because he would sell out of gas otherwise.

Motorist Chris Wampler says he waited an hour for gas in Springfield, Mo., but he was able to get it for $1.59 a gallon before the price went up to $2.04.

Several stations reported increases of 10 cents or 20 cents a gallon but would not predict what prices would be today.

Prices rose in Missouri from $1.59 to $1.99 a gallon for regular unleaded at Springfield Sunshine Conoco.

"We tried not to go up," says Donna Cox, manager of the Osage Beach, Mo., Self Serve, where the price for unleaded went from $1.59 to $1.79. "But everybody's panicked, and we're afraid we'd run out of gas. We don't know what the next few days hold. I think it's a lot like a run on the banks in 1929."

Lines at Beard's Mobil Service Center in Mount Vernon, Ill., were 30 to 35 cars deep after 2 p.m., says owner Benny Beard.

The operator of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline shut down oil loading operations at the request of the U.S. Coast Guard. Also at the Coast Guard's request, oil tankers were moved from the terminal out to sea, and the Valdez Marine Terminal was evacuated.

Contributing: Associated Press

Instant messaging steps in for blocked telecom systems

Microsoft, Yahoo report giant spikes in use of real-time service

By Jon Swartz and Michelle Kessler
USA TODAY

SAN FRANCISCO — Businesses relied heavily Tuesday on the emergency network of the Internet age: instant messaging.

"It is the best, most reliable backup for communications during crisis or telecommunications blackouts," says Andrew Schroepfer, president of Tier 1 Research. He furiously sent digital messages over his handheld device from San Francisco to clients in Manhattan — after failing to reach anybody via phone because of clogged networks.

Microsoft and Yahoo reported spikes in instant messaging, a free service that lets computer users exchange messages in real time, and unprecedented activity on their Web sites.

America Online, the No. 1 instant-messaging service, also noted an increase in instant messages. Service was sporadic in New York.

"We've never seen anything like it," Yahoo spokeswoman Nicki Dugan says. With phone lines clogged, customers and employees turned to instant messaging in huge numbers to communicate and gather news, she says.

IBM leaned on its vast instant-messaging system to communicate with employees in the New York area.

The system, which is faster than e-mail and less taxing on networks because messages aren't usually saved, is available to most of Big Blue's 340,000 employees worldwide. New York employees of Yahoo used instant messages to communicate with the company's Silicon Valley headquarters.

And workers even used it to communicate overseas. Anthony Herman, 29, co-owner of a six-employee Web-site developer in Madison, Wis., was instant messaging with a Web developer in India when "the towers fell," he says.

Meanwhile, Web-based e-mail programs such as Yahoo Mail and Microsoft Hotmail, which are accessible from any computer with an Internet connection, also were in heavy use. MSN added servers to handle the traffic glut.

Software firm Catavault used Internet e-mail to keep in touch with business partners in New York and Washington. "People don't necessarily have their PCs with them" and may not be able to get into office e-mail systems, but they can at least borrow a machine and log onto an Internet account, Catavault CEO Jonathan Bari says.

Contributing: Jim Hopkins

▸ **Phone networks clogged, 4B**
▸ **Net as communications hub, 3D**

Under attack

Businesses inside the World Trade Center

By Shannon Stapleton, Reuters

Corporate casualty: Rescue workers remove an injured man Tuesday from the World Trade Center towers, which housed offices of many well-known companies.

Attack hits USA's business center

Elite among list of tenants at World Trade Center

By Noelle Knox
USA TODAY

NEW YORK — While it will be days before the names of the victims are known, the list of corporate casualties from Tuesday's terrorist attacks include some of the most prestigious companies in the world.

Among the hundreds of companies that leased space in the World Trade Center landmark: Morgan Stanley, Oppenheimer, Verizon, Charles Schwab, Citigroup Asset Management, Sun Microsystems and hundreds more.

The offices of several key government agencies also vanished in the rubble: The Securities and Exchange Commission, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Secret Service and the Internal Revenue Service among them.

Roughly 50,000 people worked in the two towers, which toppled one at a time after two planes flew into them. The nearby 7 World Trade Center building also collapsed hours later after it was evacuated. So deepening the tragedy of losing valuable employees is the pressing fact that all of those companies must now find new facilities.

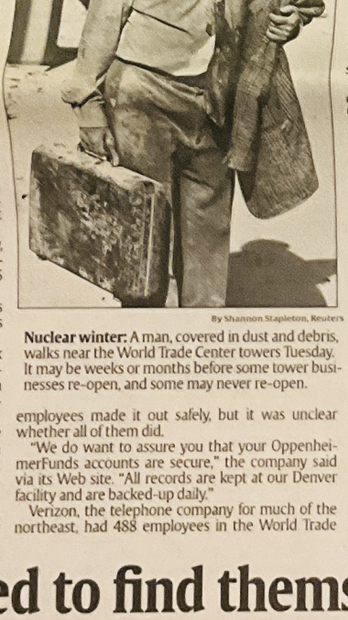
The worst hit appeared to be Morgan Stanley, which was the largest tenant in the World Trade Center, with 3,500 employees spread out among 25 floors.

The company, which is headquartered in Times Square, said most of the employees worked for its retail brokerage unit.

"We are all saddened and outraged by the attack on America today, and extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to all the people affected," Morgan Stanley's chairman, Philip Purcell, said in a statement.

"We have limited information about the Trade Center disaster beyond what has been reported in the news. . . . We are working diligently with local authorities, and we will keep you apprised of developments."

Mutual fund manager Oppenheimer also was headquartered in the World Trade Center. Several employees made it out safely, but it was unclear whether all of them did.



By Shannon Stapleton, Reuters

Nuclear winter: A man, covered in dust and debris, walks near the World Trade Center towers Tuesday. It may be weeks or months before some tower businesses re-open, and some may never re-open.

"We do want to assure you that your OppenheimerFunds accounts are secure," the company said via its Web site. "All records are kept at our Denver facility and are backed-up daily."

Verizon, the telephone company for much of the northeast, had 488 employees in the World Trade Center. There were three reported injuries, and a handful of the workers was unaccounted for.

The waiting was the worst part for many of the firms. Sun Microsystems, for one, said as many as 300 employees worked in its World Trade Center office on the 25th and 26th floors of the south tower. And as of midafternoon, there was no information as to their whereabouts.

Just blocks away from Wall Street, the World Trade Center is home to many companies that support daily trading on the New York Stock Exchange and other financial markets.

New York Board of Trade was housed at 4 World Trade Center and was significantly damaged Tuesday. NYBOT trades futures and options on coffee, cocoa, sugar, cotton and orange juice, as well as some financial instruments.

NYBOT Chairman Charles Falk said he was not sure whether the exchange could be restored.

"You can see shots (on TV) of it with significant damage," he told Reuters. "If so, it's probably history. God knows how long it will be to restore it."

NYBOT has a backup facility in Long Island City, New York.

"The Long Island facility is reasonable to trade two commodities at a time. We will probably have to go to split sessions and stagger the openings with trading going from 7:30 a.m. (ET) to 5:30 p.m. with shortened trading," Falk said from the hotel room in which he was staying, unable to get home.

Falk said he and the executive board of the NYBOT will try to get down to the site in lower Manhattan today in order to get a better idea of the damage.

Warren Breakstone, a vice president for Thomson Financial, said he was grateful the company had moved 200 employees out of the World Trade Center in May and had only 250 employees left in the two towers.

"Our focus now is to get a handle on the situation; to understand where our employees are and make sure they're OK," he said. "At this point most have been accounted for, thankfully."

And even companies far away from New York and the financial industry felt threatened by the attack.

But for the companies in the World Trade Center, it may be weeks or months before they re-open, and some may not re-open at all.

Contributing: Staff and wire reports.

Some surprised to find themselves heroes

Two men help a disabled woman escape inferno

By Bruce Horovitz
USA TODAY

Michael Benfante finished reading a novel on the train into work Tuesday. And John Cerqueira, late as usual, arrived at his Network Plus office on the 81st floor of the World Trade Center with his usual plateful of scrambled eggs and hash browns.

Neither expected that together they were about to be tested to their emotional and physical limits — and emerge as heroes. Not heroes in a comic book sense. But the kind of heroes who quietly work day-in and day-out within the glass and steel confines of Corporate America, then rise to another level when fate calls.

It came calling loudly when the building in which they both work was hit by an enemy that they did not know or see. And which, even now, they do not understand. What they do know is this: Amid the terror of the day they carried a disabled woman — strapped in a special chair — down 68 floors in a World Trade stairwell to apparent safety. Even as the building around them was melting. Even as acrid black smoke choked the stairwell. And even as others were stumbling, struggling and fainting on the stairway.

The morning began with 26 of the 46 employees at the New York branch of Network Plus, a Boston-based telecommunications firm, gathering to discuss the day's sales strategy in Suite 8121. Then the first plane hit the building, just four floors above them, but on the other side.

No one knew what had happened, but branch manager Benfante, 36, ordered everyone out of the office and down the stairs. He hoofed it down along with Cerqueira, 22, a sales representative.

"I saw flames flickering to the side of the building and could feel the whole thing swaying," Benfante says. He recalls briefly looking out the window toward the Statue of Liberty and wondering, why?

Neither Benfante nor Cerqueira had any idea what had happened. Maybe an earthquake, they thought. Or an errant commuter plane had hit the building.

On the 68th floor, they came upon a distraught woman in a wheelchair. They did not know her name, but the woman, who was blond and in her 40s, told them she had been in the building during the terrorist bombing there in 1993.

> "The lobby that I walk into every day looked like Iwo Jima."
>
> — John Cerqueira, 22-year-old sales representative for Network Plus

The two men helped her out of the wheelchair into a special chair in the stairwell designed for such emergencies. They strapped her in and began an hour-long journey down as the building blazed. Others pitched in to help carry from time to time, but it was Benfante (5-feet-11, 175 pounds) and Cerqueira (5-feet-11, 200 pounds) who never let go.

"In the back of my head, I could hear my mother telling me to get the heck out of there," Cerqueira says. "But I had to help."

Benfante even stopped briefly on the 55th floor to desperately phone his father and tell him he was OK. Along the way, they passed dozens of firemen running up the stairway. And they passed a number of aged or overweight people who could not keep up the pace.

When they finally reached the lobby, Cerqueira was incredulous at the destruction. "The lobby that I walk into every day looked like Iwo Jima," he says.

The stumbled outside and placed the woman in an emergency van. She asked Benfante for his business card, but broke down crying. And could not stop.

Then, Benfante looked up. He'd only been on the ground for a minute or two. But he saw the inevitable: the building was going to collapse.

The former college football player from Brown University started to run. He can't remember ever running so fast. Alongside him was Cerqueira, who had an ankle injury and was struggling to keep up. A TV cameraman tried to interview them and started to run with them.

They had made it just a few blocks when the entire building exploded. They watched in utter horror as people began to jump off the building. "They were falling like stick figures," Cerqueira says.

Benfante dived under a truck. Cerqueira jumped under a van. Neither man knows what happened to the cameraman.

"Everything went black," Benfante says. "The smoke and debris were everywhere. I was breathing in blackness."

At this moment, Cerqueira thought he was going to die. "I took a breath and it stuck in my throat and would not go down," he recalls. "It was like eating the burning cinders from a fireplace."

They waited for the worst to pass. After 5 minutes, the men found each other and struggled out. They ran until they got to 14th Street, where they found a church and stumbled inside.

Benfante was an altar boy for 7 years, but says, "I haven't gone to church much since then."

The two lit a candle, fell to their knees and both broke down.

"I told God that I didn't know what I'd done to be in his grace," Benfante says. "I just didn't know."

Of course, heroes don't always know the answers. Even when they're altar boys — in three-piece suits.

Disaster could swing stocks

Effect impossible to predict since there's no precedent

By Matt Krantz
USA TODAY

Investors rattled by the destruction of the nation's financial nerve center worry that another disaster, this one concerning the value of stocks, could await once markets reopen.

Skittish investors may sell stocks for cash and bonds in the short term, analysts say. But with no precedent for an attack as devastating as Tuesday's, market strategists and historians are torn on the long-term fallout.

"We're talking about something the stock market has never endured," says Brian Belski, strategist at US Bancorp Piper Jaffray.

Views vary widely about what to expect:

▸ **Pessimistic opinion: The stock market gets crushed and pushes America into recession.** The attack is enough to smack an already wobbly stock market and economy into recession, says Sung Won Sohn, chief economist with Wells Fargo. "There's no good time for an attack, but this is coming at a vulnerable time," he says.

Investors will sell stocks seeking security of cash and government bonds, he says. Corporate managers will scale back spending on investments in things such as technology, he says. But most alarming is the damaging effect this will have on consumers, who will cut back spending, he says.

Gibbons Burke, editor of MarketHistory.com, says the bombing could be the trigger to nudge stocks into danger. And investors already considering selling now have a reason to get out, says Fane Lozman, chairman of Scanshift.com.

▸ **Moderate opinion: Stocks will fall in the short term, but cool heads will soon prevail.** There will be "chaos" in the short term as investors sort out the effect, says John Bollinger, president of Bollinger Capital Management. "But political disaster doesn't necessarily lead to economic disaster," he says. Neither the Gulf War nor the Oklahoma City bombing led to long-term financial disaster, he says.

Historically, investors don't panic following direct attacks on the USA, says MarketHistory's Burke. The Dow Jones industrial average fell only 2% on average in the first trading day following the six major attacks against U.S. property ranging from the bombing of the USS Maine in the harbor of Havana to Pearl Harbor and the Oklahoma City bombing, Burke says. In fact, after four of the six attacks, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 30 days later, he says.

▸ **Specific opinion: Stocks in industries directly affected will suffer most of the damage.** Insurance companies are the most likely victim. The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center towers will be the most costly man-made catastrophe in U.S. history, says the Insurance Information Institute.

Other sectors that could be directly hurt are tourism and airlines, Sohn says. If panic spreads, housing and financial stocks could also come under pressure.

Jerry Castellini, president of CastleArk Management in Chicago, says energy and defense stocks including Lockheed Martin and Boeing will benefit.

▸ **Hopeful opinion: Investors are so stunned they won't necessarily rush out of stocks.** Investors won't have a chance to wreak knee-jerk havoc on stocks, because markets are closed at least through today. "Everyone is stunned, and that may cause a more muted response" when markets reopen, says A.C. Moore, strategist at Dunvegan Associates.

Investors such as Robert Hornak, a 33-year-old in Birmingham, Ala., say they don't plan to sell. "Even out of the Depression, people who held stocks did well for themselves," Hornak says.

But the attack, and the higher oil prices it causes, could put the economy in danger, Moore says. "We're at risk," he says.

Backup plans protect investors

By John Waggoner
USA TODAY

Worried investors should know that banks, brokerage houses and mutual fund companies typically have disaster-recovery and backup plans in place, and that acts of terrorism won't wipe out people's savings.

The rise of terrorism in the 1970s and 1980s, as well as the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake in San Francisco, convinced most financial services companies that they had to be prepared for disaster. Companies developed plans to manage disasters at corporate headquarters, adding emergency generators and redundant computer systems to protect shareholder records and accounts.

They also added remote systems for vital computer records. So most fund companies and brokerages back up their computer systems to storage places far away from their main operations.

"We back up records every night," says Schwab spokesman Glenn Mathison. Schwab is based in earthquake-prone San Francisco. Schwab's backup site is in Phoenix.

At OppenheimerFunds, located in the World Trade Center, disaster plans have been in place for years. "Critical services in our New York office have been relocated to other venues," the company said through a press release. "All shareholder records are kept by our transfer agent in a different state and are backed up daily."

Similarly, Morgan Stanley, the company hardest hit by the bombings, has told investors that their assets are safe.

"Our financial advisers will soon be in contact with our individual investors to answer questions and address their concerns," the company said in a statement.

Under attack

Businesses will likely see lower productivity

Absenteeism also may climb in wake of events

By Stephanie Armour
and Julie Appleby
USA TODAY

In one horrifying morning, employees have been poignantly reminded that no workplace is safe.

And the reverberations from the attacks in New York and Washington could affect businesses for years.

Offices ground to a halt early Tuesday as stunned employees gathered around televisions and radios, bombarded the Internet for information and called friends and family.

Unlike natural disasters such as earthquakes, which affect a relatively small area, Tuesday's attacks sent fear throughout the country: Office building managers shut down elevators, put security on high alert or sent employees home. Skyscrapers, such as the Sears Tower, were closed.

"An act of human aggression is more traumatic than an act of nature; it's harder to deal with the fact that someone has intentionally done this," says Dr. Thomas Neylan, medical director of the post-traumatic stress program at the University of California, San Francisco.

In the coming days, employers nationally, but especially those near the site of the attacks, can expect reduced productivity and higher-than-normal absenteeism, say experts. Some companies, such as AT&T Wireless, have already offered counseling to employees.

"There's an immediate shock response people go through, then bewilderment, before fear sets in," says Deana Julka, a professor of psychology at the University of Portland in Oregon. "Fear can be debilitating in terms of concentrating on work."

By Douglas C. Pizac, AP

Moment of silence: People attending the Jane's Facility Security Conference in Salt Lake City bow their heads in response to the attacks on the USA Tuesday. The conference's topic is on security and how to handle terrorist attacks.

Employers can expect increased calls for workplace security and far less enthusiasm for business travel. Experts say the fear unleashed by the attacks could linger for weeks, if not months.

"When these horrible disasters occur, most people go through a period where their assumptions about the safety of the world are shattered," says Neylan in San Francisco. "Usually, in a few weeks, they go back to their sense that it will happen to someone else and not them. For the most part, you have to live that way."

Julka says that if the group or groups responsible for Tuesdays attacks can be identified and dealt with, the nation will recover faster.

"That would restore a sense of control," Julka says.

Workers and employers can expect several long-term impacts:

▸ Heightened fears.

In the days or weeks afterward, employees may feel concerned about personal safety and companies are likely to take additional steps to protect both their workers and their computer systems.

"It will be much tougher for people to get in and out of buildings," says Robert Blendon, a public opinion professor at Harvard University.

Employees in offices that are national icons, such as the Sears Tower, or those who work for the government or in high-rise buildings, may feel especially at risk.

"You wonder how many people will tell their bosses, 'I don't want to work in this building,' " says John Challenger of outplacement firm Challenger Gray and Christmas in Chicago.

At his Chicago office, workers' voices "were quavering," because they're just blocks away from the Sears Tower, Challenger says. "People at my office were just undone."

▸ **Business travel concerns.** Companies may cancel business trips and employees may be hesitant to travel.

"Some people are worried about flying, but others think that after all this is over that flying will be safer" because of increased security, says Dan Miles, an IBM consultant in Gaithersburg, Md.

▸ **Lower productivity.** Productivity could be affected for weeks, if not months, experts say, because so many offices have come to a standstill.

Bart Schachter, at Blueprint Ventures, a venture capital company in San Francisco, flew into New York Monday for meetings. But the meetings are unlikely to happen, he says, because "we can't get to people."

▸ **Technology upgrades.** Experts also say that the attack is bringing home a new reality: the importance of technology. Some evacuating employees grabbed their laptops before family pictures. When phone lines went down, some employees with high-speed access lines could stay in touch, but others with regular connections could not.

More companies may look at disaster potential when designing telecommunication systems.

Counseling experts say companies should have a plan for dealing with workers' stress, both short and long term.

"Initially, employers should recognize that people need to be able to talk on the phone, talk with the people they love in the world," Neylan says. "Some will have a hard time getting back to their tasks. Others may feel that they're going to do their jobs, they're not going to let terrorism win."

Joe Weintraub, a management professor Babson College in Massachusetts, says companies should encourage executives to talk about what's occurred and make employee assistance programs available, even weeks after the attacks.

"People's reactions may be delayed and they may show up later, after the shock stage," Weintraub says. "There should be an opportunity to follow up, and they should not assume that people will just get over it."

Attacks may set record for insurers

By Christine Dugas
USA TODAY

NEW YORK — The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon will be the most costly man-made catastrophe in U.S. history, resulting in billions of dollars in insured losses.

"This will be very complex and it will take quite a while to assess all the damage," says P.J. Crowley, vice president of the Insurance Information Institute, an industry education group.

Until Tuesday's attack, the largest man-made disaster was the Los Angeles riots in 1992, which caused $775 million in insured losses. The World Trade Center bombings in 1993 resulted in $510 million in losses.

This disaster is more likely to be on par with a major hurricane in terms of its property damage, experts say. The price tag for Hurricane Andrew, which struck the South Florida coast in 1992, was $15.5 billion — making it the most costly natural disaster in the USA.

However, there is usually time to evacuate residents before a hurricane hits land. In this case, the property damage is much more concentrated and the human toll will be much higher than with a hurricane.

"This was more horrific because it was so sudden and there was no warning," says David Lackey, president of Weiss Ratings.

Despite the size of the tragedy, property insurers are prepared for these types of losses and the industry is in good financial shape, analysts say. "There is no significant weakness," Lackey says. "I don't anticipate a rash of industry failures as a result of this tragedy."

The U.S. government is self-insured. So Congress would have to appropriate funds to repair damage to the Pentagon, Crowley says. The only insured losses would be from small businesses, such as a coffee shop, that might operate within the Pentagon.

And in the case of giant skyscrapers such as the World Trade Center's 110-story twin towers, one insurer usually does not shoulder all the risk for insuring the structure. One company may be the lead insurer, while multiple layers of other insurers would share the risk.

Chubb, which offers corporate property and accident insurance, said that it has "significant property exposure" related to the attacks. But Chubb said that reinsurance should limit its pre-tax losses to between $100 million and $200 million.

Each of the approximately 1,200 businesses that operated in the towers probably had insurance policies that covered their property, claims for lost business income, workers compensation for injured workers and the cost of establishing temporary operations. And in the surrounding area, many more businesses, apartments and automobiles were damaged.

In general, the standard property and casualty policies will cover damages stemming from terrorist attacks. But after the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, there was speculation that insurers might start to exclude such losses.

"I would anticipate that now we'll start to see more exclusions for acts of terrorism," Lackey says.

In the meantime, however, insurance companies are already gearing up to respond to the crisis. Three hours after receiving news of the attacks, the catastrophe operations group at State Farm Insurance was meeting.

State Farm said its React Team of claims representatives was put on alert in Wayne, N.J. The team will go into Manhattan as soon as possible to assess the damage and customers' needs.

Associated Press 1992 file photo

Man-made catastrophe: The 1992 riots in Los Angeles are the most costly man-made disaster, resulting in $775 million in insured losses. Insured losses in Tuesday's attacks may be greater.

USA's most costly natural catastrophes

Date	Disaster	Insured losses
1992	Hurricane Andrew	$15.5 billion
1994	Northridge, Calif., earthquake	$12.5 billion
1989	Hurricane Hugo	$4.2 billion

USA's most costly man-made catastrophes

Date	Disaster	Insured losses
1992	Los Angeles riots	$775 million
1993	World Trade Center bombing	$510 million
1995	Oklahoma City bombing	$125 million

Source: Insurance Information Institute

Callers overwhelm phone system

Pay phones become heroes as many wireless users get busy signals

By Andrew Backover
and Paul Davidson
USA TODAY

Callers overloaded the USA's phone and wireless networks Tuesday as a record number of people searched for answers and loved ones following a series of terrorist attacks.

Regular telephone networks were clogged in pockets, particularly in the Northeast.

Wireless users nationwide got busy signals for much of the day — as did international callers trying to reach the USA.

Though traffic eased by early afternoon, AT&T, the USA's biggest long-distance firm, says call volumes were still 40% higher than normal at 5 p.m. ET.

Phone and wireless firms also discouraged non-essential calls so that emergency and law enforcement officials could get through.

> Verizon Communications says it's making 4,000 pay phones in Manhattan free for an undetermined time.

People worked around the jams.

▸ Employees at Analysts International, a technology consulting firm in New York, used handheld computers and text pagers to make sure evacuated colleagues made it to safe locations. (Instant messaging a hit: story 2B.)

▸ Pay phones, which many phone firms are phasing out, were a savior for people who couldn't connect via cellphone. In New York, people waited in lines 50 deep to make calls. Verizon Communications says it's making 4,000 pay phones in Manhattan free for an undetermined time. Miami resident Nadine Rog, in Washington, D.C., for a medical convention, couldn't get through on her cellphone to her brother in Alaska. Finally, she used a calling card at a pay phone to reach relatives in Florida. They passed along her message. "Nobody could get through for hours," Rog says of cellphones.

Some companies couldn't work much at all. Michael Beightol was unable to make phone calls — thus do business — for much of the day. He is president of the five-employee Coyote Marsh & Associates, a public-relations firm in North Barrington, Ill.

"The near-term impact on business is likely to be significant as clients cancel and-or postpone plans," he says.

Other firms reported minimal problems. Officials at Visa, MasterCard and Wells Fargo say the telecommunications congestion did not disrupt ATM or credit card networks. Many firms on the West Coast, by late afternoon, could reach offices in the Northeast.

Verizon said that call volume to its networks in New York City and Washington doubled from their usual volumes of 115 million and 35 million calls, respectively. Verizon directory assistance was about 100% to 200% above normal.

The New York region was hardest hit by network disruptions.

AT&T Wireless says a handful of cell sites near the World Trade Center weren't functioning — so calls were rerouted. WorldCom lost dozens of voice and high-speed data lines that served Trade Center customers and their satellite offices. Long-distance firm Sprint says some network gear in one tower was destroyed, causing blocked long-distance calls.

Also, the New York terrorist attacks destroyed a call-routing switch that served 40,000 customers, mostly corporate tenants of the towers, says spokesman Peter Thonis of Verizon Communications. Verizon was working to reroute other circuits.

Meanwhile wireless firms brought in mobile cell towers and redirected antennas to ease congestion in the Northeast. Also, Cingular is investigating whether parts of its wireless network can be set aside for emergency use.

Contributing: Jayne O'Donnell, Jim Hopkins, Sandra Block

New York commuters scramble to find their way home

By Michael McCarthy
USA TODAY

NEW YORK CITY — Eight million panicked New Yorkers sought to flee the horror of the World Trade Center tragedy Tuesday.

Manhattan, the most famous of New York's five boroughs, is an island reachable only via 12 bridge and tunnel crossings. Every business day, 6.7 million commuters crowd into the central business district of the 13.4-mile-long island, only 2.3 miles wide at its widest point and 0.8 miles at its narrowest point. About 4.4 million of these commuters enter via subway, bus or commuter rail. These daily visitors join 1.5 million full-time Manhattan residents. About 85% of these residents use public transportation to get around, compared with a 5.3% rate for the rest of the USA.

In most disasters, citizens are able to vacate the surrounding area. But the attack on the Big Apple was unique in that there was nowhere to run, nowhere to hide for millions of stranded commuters.

The authorities closed bridges and tunnels into Manhattan for much of the day. The subways were a shambles as the busy downtown area was turned into a cordoned-off war zone. Major rail centers such as Penn Station closed.

The result? People used every means at their disposal to escape the terror: cars, taxis, trains, buses, ferries and their own feet.

They drove cars, they hailed every cab they could find, and they piled into the backs of pickups. As a last resort, they walked and walked. New Yorkers know that Manhattan is ground zero for any terrorist attack. So they tried to hoof it over any open bridges to the relative safety of Brooklyn, Queens or the Bronx.

"I won't stay here in a cage," said Paulina Misztal, 18, as she joined thousands of pedestrians heading along East 59th Street for the 59th Street Bridge over the East River and, hopefully, her home in Queens. "Manhattan is a big place. But in this situation, it's a prison. I want to get home to the people who love me."

Anne Marie Gombeda, a media planner at Creative Media on Madison Avenue, said she felt "trapped." She could see her town of Hoboken, N.J., across the Hudson River but had no way to reach it.

James Williams was stranded outside Penn Station as train service was frozen to New Jersey and Long Island. He kept walking in circles trying to forget the picture of a plane crashing into the World Trade Center, which he saw from his office. "I'm shaking," Williams said. "It's like a movie."

Almost all the commuter and pedestrian traffic moved north as millions of Manhattanites fled the stricken southern tip of Manhattan, where the World Trade Center is located. Traffic on northerly Madison Avenue was bumper to bumper, while traffic on southerly Fifth Avenue was scarce with the exception of emergency vehicles.

Many commuters chose to stay with friends, family and colleagues in Manhattan. "We're going to stay with friends in the city," says Emma Boyce, an executive at ad agency TBWA/Chiat/Day who lives in Brooklyn.

Some companies urged out-of-town staffers to bunk with colleagues with apartments in Manhattan and not even attempt their commute to suburbia. Jim Andruss, a 30-year-old executive, said his company was trying to arrange overnight accommodations for its workers.

The major hotels in midtown were preparing for a rush of business refugees even as they raised their security measures.

The Plaza closed its main hotel entrance, a popular sight from movies such as *The Way We Were*, in favor of a quieter side entrance. The hotels asked all visitors to produce a hotel key to gain entrance to the building. "We're anticipating a lot of calls as the day goes on. It all depends how tough it is to get out of the city," said Thomas Civitano, executive vice president at the Plaza. The hotel's 805 rooms, which go for $350 and up, were "fully booked," he added. Even as Civitano spoke, the Plaza security men were wrestling back a visitor in stained pants who tried to barge his way into the hotel

Incredibly, it was business as usual elsewhere in Manhattan. At the Omni Berkshire Place hotel on East 52nd Street, one guest walked up to concierge Dominic Alfonzetti and demanded to know what happened to his massage. "I've been waiting for an hour," he said.

Hours after the bombing, the carriage drivers along Central Park were still taking tourists for rides at $35 a pop.

Contributing: Theresa Howard

Under Attack

How travel stopped

Stranded travelers cope with canceled flights

By Jayne O'Donnell and Salina Khan
USA TODAY

Once the immediate shock of Tuesday's tragedies eased, tens of thousands of travelers began dealing with the reality that they couldn't get home right away.

As all flights were canceled and many airports closed, fliers were stranded at hotels, in the still-open airport waiting areas and sometimes without transportation or lodging. With phone lines jammed, business travelers relied on laptop computers and handheld devices to communicate by e-mail with family and friends. Wherever they were, many were glued to televisions.

Some companies halted all travel. Fluor Corp. sent an e-mail to all employees canceling all corporate travel in or outside the USA. The Business Travel Coalition, which counts Ford Motor and Black & Decker among its members, says more than 100 firms that responded to a survey said they were considering banning travel for the rest of the week. And 165 of those executives say they expect employees will unilaterally cut back on travel in the coming weeks.

Many rattled USA TODAY Road Warriors were so desperate to return to loved ones that they prepared to drive up to 2,000 miles in rental cars. Others anxiously weighed their desire to go home against their new fear of flying, while questions remained over when flights would resume.

Cora Simmons of Chicago, who lives in Mexico City, says the temporary shutdown of air travel in the USA had forced her to cancel plans to attend a family funeral Friday in Strasburg, Va., near Washington.

"We can't go now," Simmons said. "The family is going to try to postpone the funeral in case things change in a day or two so we can make it. But quite frankly, I'm scared to go. We don't know where the violence is going to hit next."

By Fred Greaves, AP

Nowhere to go: Samuel Alaff, 6, rubs his eyes after he and his family were stuck at San Diego International Airport on their way to Pittsburgh for vacation.

Brisk car-rental business

Shari Shea, in Denver with her husband on business, rented a car she planned to pick up at 2 p.m. today to drive to Philadelphia.

"We have two small children and will not fly together," Shea says. "I don't see how it will be any safer to fly 3 days from now."

Indeed, stranded travelers were providing rental-car companies with brisk business. Dollar Rent A Car's phone lines were so swamped that managers were taking reservations. Still, some of Dollar's airport locations were sold out and no longer taking reservations by midafternoon Tuesday.

As cars were returned, Dollar said it was "first come, first served." Thrifty Car Rental said it may keep cars that it planned to sell at auction to fill the increased demand from travelers stuck without transportation.

"We've been inundated with customers wanting to do one-way rentals," says Thrifty spokesman Chris Payne.

After a seminar in North Carolina was canceled Tuesday, Road Warrior Jay Zollicoffer rented a car and began the drive back to St. Louis on Tuesday night. Road Warrior Larry Allen says his boss authorized rental-car charges for the 1,600-mile drive from Houston to Salt Lake City, though he was waiting until today to make a decision on flying.

Some rental-car firms and hotels were relaxing rules and fees a bit so charges wouldn't be too high. Hilton waived its "no show" and early departure fees until Sept. 16 and said it won't charge penalties for groups canceling meetings or events until Oct. 31.

Many Thrifty locations that prohibit or limit one-way rentals are making exceptions. The company is also allowing customers with rental cars to keep them longer and at the same rate they paid for the rental. Dollar is not charging a penalty to customers keeping rental cars longer than they had booked them.

At Washington's Four Seasons hotel, about 200 investment bankers in town for meetings that were canceled shared at least 40 rental cars to drive home. Hotel spokeswoman Tricia Messerschmitt says a Microsoft official was also taken by limousine to Gaithersburg, Md. — at least 30 minutes outside Washington — to get a rental car he planned to drive home to Seattle. No more rentals were available in the District of Columbia, she said.

Some travelers were stranded uncomfortably close to the terror.

Raja Suresh was at a Defense Department agency meeting near the Pentagon Tuesday at about 9:45 a.m. when a person came running down the hall yelling for everyone to evacuate the building.

"We ran like blazes," Suresh says.

He quickly returned to the Rosslyn, Va., hotel he had just checked out of to reclaim his room before the expected onslaught. He plans to return home to Minneapolis as soon as he can get a flight.

"I'm anxious to be back with my family and don't want to give whoever did this the satisfaction that they disrupted our lives," Suresh says.

Rooms at some hotels, particularly those near airports, were in short supply. But with in-bound flights canceled, some accommodations became unexpectedly available. Making matters worse: A few Hilton Hotels were evacuated near the explosions in Manhattan and, in the Washington area, Doubletree National Airport Hotel, which is near the Pentagon, had smoke damage and was renting only 50 guest rooms.

The Hyatt Regency O'Hare was booked Tuesday night but prepared for more guests by keeping hundreds of cots ready to accommodate stranded travelers. Other rooms will be opening up as incoming groups have been canceling meetings scheduled for the next few days.

"Not as bad as you think," Road Warrior Tony Telford says of the supply of hotel rooms.

Those stranded farther from the scenes found distance didn't necessarily calm nerves. When offices didn't close, employees feverishly used any means possible to contact colleagues in the field and focused on little other than the day's tragic news.

'Walking around like zombies'

Jim Boldebook, who works for a Portland, Maine, advertising agency, was sitting on an airplane waiting to fly to San Francisco when the pilot announced all U.S. air traffic had been shut down. Back at his office, which remained open throughout the day, he says workers were "walking around like zombies, barely managing to answer phones and function."

Some faced gridlock everywhere they turned.

Road Warrior Sammy Tawil was heading out of New York to his New Jersey office Tuesday morning and was stuck in traffic that looked like a "scene out of the movies," with people standing on their cars, trying to get a view of the World Trade Center.

Contributing: Elliot Blair Smith

Already weak airlines stand to lose billions

Leisure travel market likely to face major slowdown

By Chris Woodyard
USA TODAY

As bad as business already was for the nation's airlines, the airborne terrorist attack Tuesday will certainly make it worse, experts say.

A dearth of business travelers has put major airlines on track to collectively lose $2 billion this year. Even with stronger security measures at airports, terrorism-spawned fears could lead to fewer leisure travelers as well, wiping out what had been the one bright spot in airlines' economic picture.

The likely slowdown is reminiscent of the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War. Many potential travelers shunned airlines for months following the conflict in January 1991, particularly international flights, amid fear of retaliatory attacks by terrorists.

None occurred, but airline profits suffered and then were further devastated by recession.

Airlines lost $3.9 billion in 1990, $2.1 billion in 1991 and $4.8 billion in 1992, the Air Transport Association says.

"This is an unprecedented event, and the impact on airline traffic and passengers will be similarly unprecedented," says Sam Buttrick, airline analyst for UBS Warburg. "The probable impact on the airlines will probably exceed the Gulf War impact."

Major travel agencies and airlines reported that reservations were at a standstill Tuesday as the nation watched the tragedy unfold. Airlines were offering refunds for tickets booked this week.

Even a 1-day shutdown is costly. Back Aviation Solutions says U.S. airlines took in nearly $357 million dollars a day in revenue last year.

The long-term outlook is uncertain. The scramble to comply with the government's unprecedented move to shut down all airline operations left little time for analysis.

"The issue of the financial impact isn't even on our radar screen," says Jack Walsh, spokesman for Alaska Airlines. But others were beginning to tally the numbers.

Airlines were already reeling because of the loss of business travelers, who pay the sky-high, last-minute fares that make them the most profitable passengers to airlines.

But planes have still been flying with heavy passenger loads — they were 76% full in July, the most recent month that the Air Transport Association has tallied. As airlines have seen fewer business passengers, they have offered deep discounts to lure leisure travelers and keep seats filled.

As the terrorism threat grips the consumer psyche, airline load factors could suffer — and losses could pile up. "It's a fair bet the financial impact will be measured in the billions," Buttrick says.

It also will affect the lives of the more than 680,000 workers in the $104 billion-a-year U.S. airline industry and thousands more who work in airports.

The airline industry has grown significantly since the Gulf War. The number of passengers is up almost 50% since 1991 to 665 million last year.

How much of an impact on the two airlines used as pawns in the disaster remains to be seen.

Bookings slowed so dramatically for Pan Am after the 1988 terrorist bombing of one of its Boeing 747s over Lockerbie, Scotland, that it never recovered.

United and American were the targets this time: the two largest airlines in the nation. United lost $292 million in the second quarter. American and TWA parent AMR lost $105 million. AMR last week warned that its third-quarter loss will be even worse than that.

The public's faith in airline travel may not recover quickly. "The airlines are going to have to convince the public it's safe, (that) what happened this time won't happen again," says OneTravel.com airline expert Terry Trippler.

Full global recession 'highly likely'

Chief problem: Fear, uncertainty

By George Hager
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Economists fear that Tuesday's terrorist attacks on New York and Washington could be the push that sends the world into its first global recession since 1974 — especially if the already teetering U.S. economy falls into its first major downturn since 1991.

"A full-blown global recession is highly likely," says Sung Won Sohn, chief economist for Wells Fargo, who predicts that the shock will damage U.S. consumer confidence the way Iraq's invasion of Kuwait did in 1990, sending the nation into recession.

"The rest of the world, which has been in a recession, will suffer more. Since the global economy is interwoven through trade and investment, all of us will be worse off," Sohn says.

Japan is already struggling through a profound slump, and Europe has slowed far more sharply than expected this year, chiefly due to fallout from the U.S. slump. Economists who think a worldwide recession is possible stress a domino theory that starts with the USA and ripples around the globe.

"If the U.S. takes a bigger hit, then of course it will drag down everything else," says Nariman Behravesh, chief economist for DRI-WEFA.

The chief problem is fear and uncertainty: Will there be more terrorist attacks? Will the U.S. response provoke a wider conflict? Will the price of oil rise to damaging heights again? And will the world's stock markets fall even more than they already have?

"The level of uncertainty that this act will bring will not be limited to the U.S.," says Anthony Chan, chief economist for Banc One Investment Advisors. "All over the world, we will see that uncertainty will rise and with that will come diminished growth. The fact that such terrorist acts came in (waves) does suggest that anything resembling normalcy will take quite some time to regain."

Just as uncertain, though, is how destabilizing any of this will turn out to be. "No one knows what this means for the United States, the G7 (group of industrialized nations), for anyone, except that some kind of inflection point in history seems almost certain to be defined by this event," says Carl Weinberg, chief economist for High Frequency Economics.

Optimists are depending on the Federal Reserve and the rest of the world's central banks to step up and flood the world financial system with cash to steady investors. Presuming that happens — and assuming Tuesday's attacks were the last and not just the beginning of a cycle — anxious markets could eventually settle down, which would help the world economy do the same.

"Central banks are already acting to make sure the financial markets have the liquidity to operate smoothly," says Ken Mayland of ClearView Economics. Over the short run, stock prices will plunge, and the prices of oil and gold will probably shoot up.

But "these sorts of events are very transitory," Mayland says. "I really believe this is not going to have a lasting negative effect on our economy or other economies."

Foreign markets

Country	Tues. close	Percent change
Mexico	5531.0	-5.6%
Sydney	3183.2	unch.
Amsterdam	449.9	-6.7%
Hong Kong	10,417.4	0.5%
Toronto	7048.8	-4.0%
Paris	4059.8	-7.4%
London	4746.0	-5.7%
Seoul	540.6	-1.8%
Johan. (Comp.)	8459.3	-2.3%
Singapore	1566.8	0.5%
Milan	20,793.0	-7.4%
Frankfurt	4273.5	-8.5%
Brussels	2581.2	-5.4%
Zurich	3955.34	-6.7%
Tokyo (Nikkei)	10,293.0	1.0%

Source: Bridge Information

Foreign currencies

Country	Tues.[1]
Euro	1.0947
Japanese yen	119.38
British pound	0.6780
French franc	7.2925
Canadian dollar	1.5640
Mexican peso	9.1500
Austrian dollar	1.9158

1 — per U.S. dollar. Source: Associated Press, Bridge Information, USA TODAY research

Foreign markets plunge; many halt trading

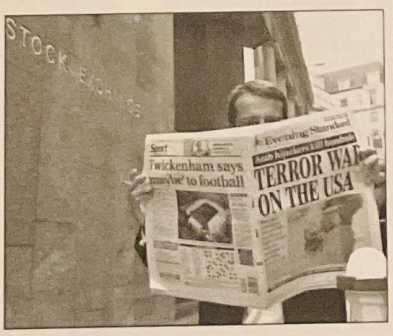
By Greg Farrell
USA TODAY

NEW YORK — Fear and uncertainty took their toll in global financial markets Tuesday, as global investors reacted to the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center here by cashing out of equities.

The Tuesday morning disaster prevented U.S. markets from opening and Asian markets had already closed for the day.

The attack had a chilling effect on exchanges in Europe. Following the Trade Center horror, the London Stock Exchange was evacuated over concerns about a possible attack. Electronic trading continued. Across Europe and Latin America, investor sentiment was bearish:

▸ In Brazil, President Fernando Henrique Cardoso warned that "there will be consequences in the whole world, mainly economic. And Brazil, which is part of the world economy, could be directly or indirectly affected by this turbulence and by the difficulties that could occur in the economic area."



By Nicolas Asfouri, AFP

Evacuated: A trader reads *The Evening Standard* in London outside the stock exchange, which was evacuated over concerns about a possible attack. The FTSE index of blue-chip stocks fell 288 points, or 5.7%.

The Sao Paulo Exchange's Bovespa index plummeted Tuesday morning and trading was halted after 75 minutes. But in that brief time the index dropped 9.2%.

In fact, exchanges in Mexico City; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Santiago, Chile; Bogota, Colombia; Caracas, Venezuela; and Lima, Peru, also suspended trading. Latin America's two other biggest stock markets along with Sao Paulo — Mexico City and Buenos Aires, each fell more than 5%.

▸ In London, the FTSE index of blue-chip stocks had staged a rally from its previous declines until news of the terrorist attack hit. Investors subsequently fled the market in droves, dropping the index by 288 points, or 5.7%, the biggest single-day decline since the crash of October 1987.

▸ In Frankfurt, Germany, the DAX dropped 8.5% before a bomb threat forced an evacuation of the exchange. On the Paris exchange, the CAC-40 index shed 7.4%.

Airline stocks, such as British Airways and Lufthansa, took a beating over the twin threat of reduced tourism revenue and higher fuel prices. Insurance stocks also got hammered.

"When there's uncertainty, people want to cash out," says Rahim Kassim-Lakha, portfolio manager at US Global Investors.

Kassim-Lakha warns that companies that are highly dependent on energy prices could suffer in the short term. "Cash flow and earnings are highly sensitive to commodity prices," he says.

The euro strengthened at the dollar's expense, closing the day at 91.35 cents, up from 89.95 cents on Monday.

There are benefits to such a shift, Kassim-Lakha says, pointing out that a weaker dollar could boost earnings for U.S. companies that export to Europe.

Contributing: Wire reports

Prices of oil, gold rise as they usually do in crises

By Del Jones
USA TODAY

Oil prices soared 6% and gold 5% Tuesday in the wake of jet crashes into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, while the U.S. dollar slipped against the euro and most other currencies.

The worst could be yet to come. Tuesday's oil rise was largely due to inventories being protected in the event that an energy crisis erupts. Prices could soar if supplies are interrupted, or if an oil-producing country is found responsible for the attacks.

For now, prices for gasoline in bulk storage in California rose by 10 cents to 20 cents.

North Sea Brent crude oil futures jumped in late London trading, closing up $1.61 at $29.06 a barrel. Earlier, Brent crude had risen $3.20, or 12%, to $30.65 a barrel on the International Petroleum Exchange.

Canadian energy companies, which export more than half of their daily oil and natural gas production to the United States, increased security at pipelines, processing plants and refineries. Traders were waiting to see if Saudi Arabia and other Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries would respond to keep oil prices stable.

OPEC Secretary-General Ali Arabia said that OPEC is committed to meeting world demand and won't withhold supplies following the attacks. Members of the oil cartel will dip into surplus capacity if necessary, he said.

Alyeska Pipeline Service, which operates the Alaska pipeline, shut down at the request of the U.S. Coast Guard, which was responding to a possible threat when a Korean Air Lines jet made an emergency landing in Canada. Officials were worried it was another suicide crash. Military jets escorted the plane to Whitehorse, the capital city of the Yukon Territory in Canada.

Shares of oil stocks rose in London.

Gold for December delivery rose to an intraday high of $290 an ounce — its highest since late May. It last traded at $280 an ounce, up $6.30 before the futures markets closed. The London gold price hit $287 an ounce, while silver edged up to $4.18 and platinum to $452. The price of precious metals usually spikes in times of uncertainty.

So does the U.S. dollar. But with the tragedy on U.S. soil, the Japanese yen gained against the U.S. dollar. The dollar bought 119.38 yen Tuesday vs. 120.95 yen Monday. Against the dollar, the euro strengthened to 91.35 cents from 89.95 cents Monday.

Contributing: Wire reports

Under attack

Vulnerable airports

Lax security, full tanks may have aided plot

One expert says Boston, Newark airports 'leak like a sieve' when it comes to access to sensitive areas

By Blake Morrison and Gary Stoller
USA TODAY

Precisely how terrorists gained access to four commercial airliners at three different airports remained a mystery late Tuesday. But aviation security experts and current and former Federal Aviation Administration officials say it wouldn't have been difficult.

They cite myriad security shortfalls — many that federal officials have known about for years — that might have enabled the terrorists to succeed.

Nevertheless, they say, the hijackings and subsequent crashes suggest a "well-organized, well-financed" plan intent on turning jets into bombs and terrorists into pilots.

"They were obviously looking for a long-haul aircraft, one that was full of fuel because that would add to any fire after impact," says Reynold Hoover, an explosives expert who conducts aviation counterterrorism seminars.

"But the other thing is, if you look at the types of aircraft that were taken down, you had to pick planes that could be flown single-handedly," Hoover says. "They had to find pilots — or people who were familiar with these types of aircraft."

What happened aboard the four jets — two 767s and two 757s — was sketchy Tuesday.

Experts say they suspect that the terrorists used some sort of weapon to overpower the pilots and fly the jets themselves.

Barbara Olson, the wife of U.S. Solicitor General Theodore Olson and a passenger aboard American Airlines Flight 77, telephoned her husband moments before the jet crashed into the Pentagon.

According to CNN, she told him that the hijackers wielded knives and cardboard cutters and that their motives were unclear. Another report implied that terrorists might have used pepper spray on the crew during American Airlines Flight 11, which crashed into the World Trade Center.

Such devices might be relatively easy to get past airport security checkpoints, but experts say even guns wouldn't be difficult.

Billie Vincent, a former FAA security director, says terrorists could succeed in getting past security by using distractions. He says he interviewed someone in prison who hijacked an U.S. airliner a few decades ago, and the hijacker boasted he could do it again.

"The hijacker said he'd put on a janitor's uniform and carry a bucket and would have no problem getting a weapon through airport security. If you use a distraction, you have a good chance of getting through security screening points," Vincent says.

He said the terrorists might have understood the limitations and idiosyncrasies of airport metal detectors and X-ray machines.

Beating the machines is made easier by a lack of qualified screeners. In fact, Vincent said, "the No. 1 vulnerability at airports is the level of training and amount of turnover of security personnel."

That's because screeners are paid little and face a tedious, boring job, he said.

In 1999, a government report showed that airport security was lax. In nearly 120 instances over 5 months, government testers were able to gain access to secure areas without proper identification.

In some cases, they evaded security by walking past a checkpoint just behind an airport employee, riding in unguarded elevators, driving through unguarded gates, or simply walking into secure areas.

A year earlier, an internal FAA memo dated Oct. 1, 1998, shows, a team hired by the agency breached security at one Western airport 446 out of 450 times. A copy of the memo, sent Tuesday to USA TODAY by former FAA security inspector Steve Elson, shows that the team:

- "Managed to get to ramp through security doors 19 times by slipping behind other staff who had the security door opened by their coded cards."
- "Managed to get by passenger X-ray screening repeatedly (7 times) having on them a gun sealed under their belt-buckle. Also having an automatic Mac2 machine gun under their jacket on their back."
- "Managed, after getting to the ramp area, (to) get into Skychef's catering truck where the food-trolley are stored, without any problem by simply opening the back roll-up door and place anything they liked (on) the catering carts."

The team also gained easy access to the baggage areas using false identification cards and "managed to get into aircraft, have as much time there as they wanted (unmanned, unguarded aircraft) and could easily have placed a bomb onboard."

"Thus," the memo says, "they rated (the airport) as highly vulnerable to terrorism and bombings in all security areas."

A current FAA security official confirms having seen the memo but said he isn't certain whether the agency specifically responded to any of the points it raised.

Why Boston Logan, Washington Dulles and New Jersey's Newark airports were targeted also is unclear. Experts say they were close to the terrorists' targets: Washington, D.C., and New York City. But the FAA security official sees other reasons.

"Boston and Newark are undergoing a lot of renovations. They leak like a sieve," the official said. "Dulles I was surprised at, but not really. There's only one major checkpoint. So you have to figure there are very few employees at Dulles who do not have access. Almost all the action at Dulles goes on beyond the checkpoint."

Also in 1999, *The Boston Globe* reported regular security breaches at Logan Airport, where two of the doomed flights were hijacked Tuesday.

Tom Kinton, the director of aviation at Logan, said he suspects that the airport "was chosen because of our proximity to New York and the availability of wide-bodied jets fully fueled for transcontinental flights."

Still, he said he expects "significant changes" in airport operations. He said that would include a stepping up of random ID checks; only allowing passengers into gate areas; elimination of curbside check-in and increased surveillance by bomb-sniffing dogs.

"We're trying to uncover what went wrong and correct it for the future," he said. "I'm not going to second guess because we don't know. We're going to cooperate to the fullest extent and find out what went wrong."

Another area of concern: whether the terrorists could have been airport or airline employees. Vincent and others say the terrorists might have gained access to jets through an airline's cargo or food catering operation. They likely would have needed some sort of identification that would have included an electronic access card.

"Very few airports in the world, and none that I know of in the U.S., screen employees that have access to the air side," Vincent said.

Whatever the cause, the traveling public will see a different sort of security as soon as today, when flights are expected to resume.

William Waldock, professor of aeronautical science at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, said the attacks will prompt drastic changes in aviation security.

"In the past our approach to hijackings has always been to try to do everything we can to preserve the lives of the people on board. But something like this, where the airplane becomes the weapon, changes things," Waldock said. "Now we'll have to be more concerned about where the aircraft is going and be more willing to shoot the airplane down."

Contributing: Byron Acohido, Marilyn Adams, Fred Bayles, Jayne Clark and Chris Woodyard.

By James A. Finley, AP

Stranded: Passengers look for their luggage Tuesday in piles of bags at Lambert International Airport in St. Louis. Federal officials ordered all U.S. flights grounded Tuesday after terrorists hijacked four commercial flights. Two of the jets crashed into the World Trade Center in New York, one into the Pentagon in the Washington area, and one near Pittsburgh.

By April L. Brown, AP

Tight security across USA: Police Sgt. Ray Gardner stops a car Tuesday in front of Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport near Bentonville. No vehicles were allowed to park in front of the terminal.

By Michael A. Schwarz, USA TODAY

On alert: Police officer Derrick Davis and dog Rusty stand guard at a security checkpoint at Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport.

What U.S. officials were saying Tuesday

Reuters

"While some federal buildings have been evacuated ... your federal government continues to function effectively."

—White House Counselor Karen Hughes.

AP

"The Pentagon is functioning. It will be in business tomorrow."

—Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Reuters

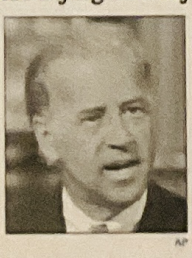
"Make no mistake about it, your armed forces are ready."

—Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

AP

"As far as I'm concerned, war has been declared against the United States. We ought to act accordingly. We ought to have a very stiff response to that."

—Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah.



AP

"We'll be back in business tomorrow in Washington. It's important for the whole world to see there has been no change in our resolve."

—Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del.

USA TODAY

"Senators and House members, Democrats and Republicans will stand shoulder to shoulder to fight this evil."

—House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill.

AP

"Today's despicable acts were an assault on our people and on our freedom."

—Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D.

AP

"This is the second Pearl Harbor. I don't think that I overstate it."

—Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb.

Rescue teams rush to World Trade Center, Pentagon

More than 700 rescue workers were dispatched on Tuesday by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, responding to terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Arlington, Va.

Eight FEMA task forces sped to the World Trade Center, while four task forces provided help at the Pentagon. The remaining 16 FEMA search and rescue teams were on alert, as of 6 p.m. ET.

The Army Corps of Engineers is assisting FEMA with debris removal at both sites. FEMA is coordinating its activities with the FBI Information Center.

Search and rescue teams will work nonstop, trying to reach as many victims as possible within the next five days. Survival rates decrease dramatically after that.

Who are the rescuers?

- There are 28 urban search and rescue task forces across the nation, funded by FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Each task force has 62 members.
- Municipal firefighters, engineers and medical professionals make up task forces.
- Task forces assist when help is requested, either from the state or, in international situations, the country where the disaster occurred. Teams were on their way within six hours of being called.
- Once on site, teams work 24 hours a day in 12-hour shifts. Task forces are structured so two people are trained to do the same job. Each shift is fully staffed.
- Task forces are self-sufficient. They take their own shelter, toilets, food and water to disaster scenes.
- Two U.S. task forces are allowed to travel internationally. They are Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in Virginia and Metro-Dade Fire Department in Florida.

People are rescue workers' first resource

Before the development of Search Cams and Life Detectors, workers relied on survivors to decide where to look for buried victims — and they still do.

"It's their families and friends that are under all the rubble," says Andy Hubert, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue logistics manager. "They've been exploring the area since the disaster happened when you've just walked onto the scene."

So why spend thousands of dollars on equipment?

"I can't tell you the time we waste digging for nothing, chasing dead leads," Hubert says. "Everyone wants to hear their family moving under the debris. These instruments let us make sure there is someone alive under the rubble before we spend half a day recovering a dead body. They also show how a person is trapped so we know how to execute a rescue."

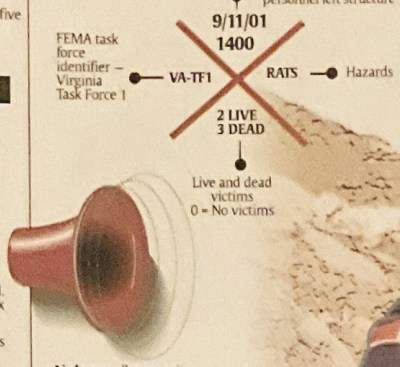
After the mission

To help search teams deal with psychological effects of what they have seen, or emotions associated with unsuccessful rescue attempts, FEMA usually organizes a debriefing session.

Debriefers will ride back with task forces to get an idea of how group members are feeling after the mission. Two or three days later, a formal session will be set up with crisis and mental health counselors. After the initial session, counselors will stay in touch with task force members' friends and family to see if they need additional support.

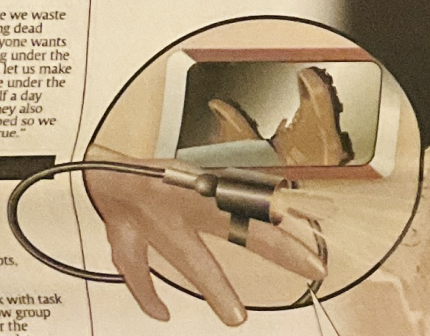
Communicating without words

Wall marks will tell other task forces if an area has been searched.



Air horns allow on-site, nonverbal communication.
Evacuate the area: Three short blasts, each lasting 1 second.
Cease operation/all quiet: One long blast, lasting 3 seconds.
Resume operations: One long and one short blast.

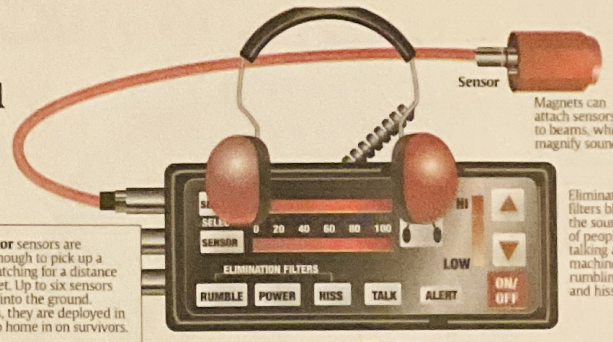
"Sniffer dogs" are trained to bark for 30 seconds continuously if they think they've located a victim. A second dog is then brought in. If both dogs respond the same way, search equipment is used as final confirmation and a rescue operation begins.



Eyes under the ground

Snake Eyes and **Search Cams** are portable camera units that can spot victims. They can illuminate dark areas and are small enough to be lowered through a crack in the floor.

Life detector sensors are sensitive enough to pick up a person scratching for a distance up to 50 feet. Up to six sensors can be put into the ground. Sometimes, they are deployed in a pattern to home in on survivors.



When **tunneling,** workers use chain saws to cut through walls and floors to find victims. Cut sections are bolted and lifted by cranes and pulleys.

Cribbing keeps walls from collapsing.

Sources: Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department; Federal Emergency Management Agency

Reporting by April L. Umminger; graphic by Suzy Parker, USA TODAY

Catastrophes mobilize, engulf army of rescuers

By Robert Davis
USA TODAY

The emergency medical systems in the nation's political and financial nerve centers were overwhelmed Tuesday as paramedics, nurses and doctors raced to help unimaginable numbers of terrorist victims in New York and Washington, D.C.

Many of the rescuers in New York quickly became victims themselves as the World Trade Center buildings collapsed.

"It's a catastrophe of unparalleled proportions," says Eric Manheimer of Bellevue Hospital Center in New York.

His hospital was swamped by severe trauma victims injured by the first attack on the World Trade Center. Within hours — as the televised terrorist attacks continued — hospitals across both New York and Washington, D.C., geared up as rescuers raced toward what looked like war zones.

As they watched the tragedies unfold on television, they moved sick patients out of emergency rooms; sent doctors, medical gear and blood to the scenes; called in off-duty workers and prayed.

Near the Pentagon in Virginia, Fairfax Hospital Chaplain Phil Brooks gathered the emergency room staff for a quick prayer for families, for the victims and for peace.

Nothing could prepare the emergency workers for what they would see.

Injuries were typical of what rescuers call "weapons of mass destruction" — amputations, burns and crushing injuries requiring immediate critical care.

With massive numbers of casualties, emergency workers must triage the wounded — giving care to the most critically injured with a chance to live before those with lesser injuries and those who clearly can't be saved.

Emergency coordinators sent search and rescue teams that continued working into the night looking for survivors at both terrorist sites.

Construction workers became rescuers, making stretchers out of 2-by-4s and plywood. Doctors and nurses turned pickup trucks and dump trucks into makeshift ambulances.

"We felt a heaviness inside us that none of us have ever felt before," says Craig Senzon, a 29-year-old neurologist who volunteered at a New York triage center.

As the medical crews who were closest to the attacks faced their toughest challenge, reinforcements were sent.

The Navy sent ships with surgical teams and hospital beds to the waters off both cities.

The federal government launched for the first time its nationwide emergency medical response, which puts 7,000 specially trained medical professionals into mobile teams.

"Today's extraordinary emergencies call for extraordinary response," said Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson. "Our emergency medical response system is ready."

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Under attack

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North Tower

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By Robert Deutsch, USA TODAY

Before: Concrete flowerpots lined the perimeter of the World Trade Center prior to Tuesday's events.

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Source: CoStar Group

Information for this list of World Trade Center tenants came from www.costargroup.com.

East Coast events put brakes on Silicon Valley companies

By Michelle Kessler
USA TODAY

Even hyper-paced Silicon Valley slowed Tuesday as most workers spent the day watching the news or waiting for news about East Coast colleagues.

Companies such as Hewlett-Packard, Apple and eBay were open, but many employees canceled meetings to gather in cafeterias and lobbies. Others chose to work from home.

Special events throughout the region were called off. Technology conferences hosted by Banc of America Securities, Lehman Bros. and Jupiter Media Metrix were canceled. Many out-of-town attendees were stranded by the travel shutdown.

A CEO roundtable hosted by public relations firm Blanc & Otus was postponed for the opposite reason: Technology executives from other parts of the country could no longer get to Menlo Park, in the heart of the Valley.

Companies such as Yahoo and H-P also spent much of the morning trying to locate employees who were traveling — as did Microsoft in Redmond, Wash.

The Valley was less affected than downtown San Francisco, where many buildings were closed and tension in the air was palpable.

Security guards blocked the entrance to the Transamerica Pyramid building, federal buildings and banks.

But Valley streets still looked "like a ghost town," says Ken Kingery, vice president of sales and marketing for Menlo Park Technologies.

Traffic was light all day. Stores were mostly deserted. The Menlo Park post office, usually packed during lunch, was empty.

Most of search engine firm Google's 180 employees reported to work at its Mountain View offices.

But work conversations were often started with: "I hate to bring up this project, but ..." says Raymond Nasr, director of communications.

Companies' meetings were canceled on a case-by-case basis. A teleconference call with Oracle was still on, but one with H-P was postponed, says Pete Beckman, vice president of engineering for TurboLinux in Santa Fe.

Silicon Valley's venture capitalists, who have close ties to New York's financial community, struggled through the day as they listened for news from colleagues.

They're "shocked ... a lot of our colleagues worked there," says Forest Baskett, a venture partner with New Enterprise Associates.

Many firms ramped up security. "We're keeping a pretty close eye on the site," says Kevin Pursglove of eBay, the online auction company based in San Jose. EBay didn't report any disruptions to its Web-hosting operations.

H-P increased security in all of its offices worldwide, it said. It closed offices in New York and Washington. In San Francisco and Los Angeles, it encouraged employees to work from home. Also, it suspended all travel.

The mood "is definitely somber," says Brian Jaquet, a spokesman for Mountain View-based Handspring.

Contributing: Jon Swartz

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China's hot economy on pace for 7% growth

Amazing spurt kicks in as reforms take hold and foreign investment jumps

By Steve Friess
Special to USA TODAY

BEIJING — The growth rate is robust. Exports remain strong. Record-breaking foreign investment continues to roll in. As the rest of the planet suffers under the weight of a less-than-soft economic landing, one country is booming.

China, once the capital of communism, now has the world's hottest market economy. The most populous nation, almost immune to the slowdown gripping the USA, Europe and most of Asia, is on pace for 7% growth this year. Japan, by contrast, is struggling with negative quarterly economic results.

"This is a country that has doubled its standard of living every 8 years or so over the past two decades," says Deepak Bhattasali, a China expert at the World Bank. "That has not happened in history before in a sustainable way. Even if you take (China's) lagging western provinces, they're lagging behind eastern provinces, but with 5% growth rates, they're among the top performers in the world." Consider:

- Ford Motor announced this spring it would plunge $49 million into a $98 million joint venture with a carmaker in the central city of Chongqing for a factory that will eventually crank out 50,000 passenger sedans annually. Those cars are intended for domestic sales, not as exports.
- McDonald's, which spent the 1990s cautiously edging into the Chinese market, plans to open more than 100 restaurants each year for the next several years. That's a dramatic surge; the fast-food giant had opened just 295 from 1990 to 1999.
- China overtook the USA this summer as the nation with the most cellular phones in use, at about 120 million. About 5 million new subscribers sign up each month. By 2005, 300 million phones may be in use, which must make market-leader Motorola giddy.
- Legend Holdings, the top Chinese personal computer manufacturer, reported its second-quarter profit rose fivefold from the year before. Chinese are expected to buy 9.5 million PCs in 2001, a huge leap from the 3.9 million sold in 1999, according to Internet technology market research firm IDC.

Timing is everything

China is holding up well amid this round of bad economic weather abroad partly because of remarkable timing. The government spent the 1990s pushing a litany of reforms now starting to take hold, from allowing the urban public to buy property to liberalized rules on how foreign companies can operate here to privatizing government-owned conglomerates.

About 35% of businesses are now privately owned in China's major cities, a figure likely to soar over 50% within 5 years, predicts Kim Woodard, chairman of Javelin Investments, a consulting firm advising mid-size U.S. companies on China. "In another 10 years, this will not be a state-owned economy," he says. "This normalization is the reason why you see this surge in foreign investment."

Indeed, even as major foreign companies hunker down at home and warn about earnings, they're risking millions for a shot at enticing 1.3 billion Chinese customers with decades of pent-up desire for consumer products. Foreign direct investment is now on track to hit $45 billion this year, up from $41 billion in 2000, according to Chinese government statistics.

Foreign manufacturers also are drawn to China for its labor costs, second-lowest in Asia behind Indonesia. Per-capita income in China is about $850 a year. And unlike Indonesia and other Southeast Asia nations, there's no political instability in China.

The Chinese economy also isn't as affected by the jolts of the international stock markets or currency fluctuations because the government limits private citizens' investment options and has yet to allow the Chinese renminbi to be fully convertible.

"China's economy is so large, it has its own internal weather system," said Desmond Wong of Ernst & Young, the Chicago-based accounting giant with 200 employees in China. "Visualize a farmer in the middle of the country. Their day-to-day activities don't change that much. Regardless of the foreign situation, a small village in a particular province will continue its activities with its neighbor village."

Other forces also factor in. China's impending entry into the World Trade Organization in November is expected to grant foreign investors even wider access to Chinese markets and lower tariffs. The government in recent years has laid down hundreds of miles of new highway, built or renovated airports and overseen the construction of one of the world's most effective cellular phone systems.

Some troubling signs

China isn't immune to the global slowdown. It finds itself less able to sell products abroad because foreign consumers have less to spend. Export growth was reported at 8.4% in the first 7 months of 2001 over a year ago, significantly lower than the astounding 27.8% rise in the same period of 2000 vs. 1999.

But it's certainly the most stable in Asia, leaving leaders of rival Asia-Pacific nations hoping China can help them emerge from their own woes.

"China's experience in economic reforms in the last 20 years and its resultant transformation are clear evidence of what open trade and investment can bring," Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong told a meeting of Asia-Pacific business leaders last month.

Even Taiwan, the renegade Chinese province that for years has pushed its economic independence by barring most direct trade and transportation links with the mainland, appears to be making a stunning political about-face to cozy to China's boom. Amid its own devastating economic slump, leaders on the island last month recommended allowing more Taiwanese investment in China. "This is a huge shift," says Nathan Midler, a China analyst for IDC. "It shows where both economies are now."

Midler and others do worry that some investors may be racing from a dot-com craze to a China craze fraught with similar risks that the consumer market they fantasize about may not actually exist.

"China is not a 1.3 billion (consumer) market because 64% of it are farmers, and they're not potential Internet users, at least not for a while," Midler says. "Although this market is growing, there are still a lot of risks. Anyone seriously thinking about China should do it right away, but it'll be a long time before there are results here."

Other more significant challenges exist, including China's inability to effectively combat rampant counterfeiting and piracy of established products.

"Western companies know not to put sophisticated technology into this market that they cannot afford to lose," Javelin Investment's Woodard says. "It will be a long time before the intellectual property rights regime here is well-controlled, even though a lot of work is being done now in that area."

Corruption among local officials also is a problem in less urban areas. Last week, a state-sponsored conference promoting investment opportunities in the nation's western provinces degenerated into a gripe session with multinational companies demanding more public scrutiny of official behavior, the state-owned *China Daily* reported.

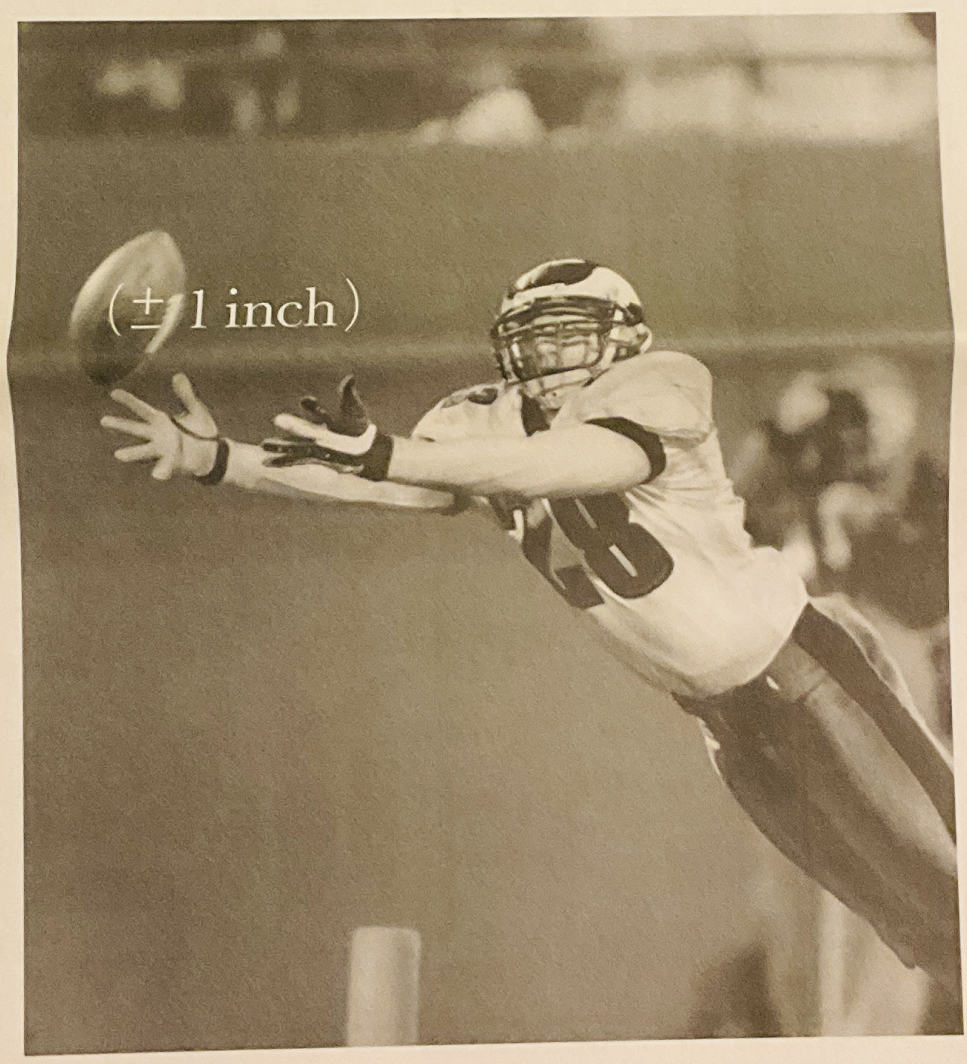
Yet the 1990s reforms show, at least, that China's top leaders are sincere about economic changes that make this a more appealing investment option, experts say.

"The 1990s in China proved to be a massive growth period, and companies that came in and accelerated it turned out to be correct," says Woodard, citing Motorola, Volkswagen and Procter & Gamble as huge successes. "It's my personal belief we're in for another strong decade in the Chinese economy."

► China's effort to join WTO hits snag, 16B

By Claro Cortes IV, Reuters

New opportunity: Investors wait outside a Shanghai bank Tuesday to buy China's first open-end mutual fund. The government limits citizens' investment options, which keeps the country insulated from international market jolts.



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